

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unchaining the Vote: 7th Grade Tactical History Quiz

How did activists dismantle systemic voter suppression? Analyze the strategic shift from grassroots organizing to federal legislative reform.

1. The 1961 Albany Movement in Georgia is often studied by historians as a 'lesson in failure.' What was the primary reason it failed to achieve immediate desegregation?

Answer: A) The local police chief used non-violent tactics to avoid federal intervention.

Police Chief Laurie Pritchett studied non-violent protest and instructed officers to arrest activists quietly and without brutality, preventing the media coverage and federal outrage that fueled other successful protests.

2. The _____ was a grassroots organization formed primarily by students following the lunch counter sit-ins, focusing on community organizing and voter registration in the Deep South.

Answer: B) Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

SNCC (pronounced 'snick') was essential for mobilizing young people and gave rise to leaders like Diane Nash and John Lewis through its focus on local empowerment.

3. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was primarily focused on ending literacy tests at polling places.

Answer: B) False

False. While a landmark law, the 1964 Act focused on public accommodations and employment; the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the specific legislation that targeted literacy tests.

4. How did the 1963 Children's Crusade in Birmingham change the strategy of the movement?

Answer: C) It leveraged media imagery of police brutality against youth to sway public opinion.

The sight of fire hoses and dogs being used against children in Birmingham generated international outrage, forcing the Kennedy administration to draft stronger civil rights legislation.

5. Septima Clark, often called the 'Queen Mother' of the movement, developed _____ to teach literacy and constitutional rights to rural African Americans to help them register to vote.

Answer: B) Citizenship Schools

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Citizenship Schools were a critical form of educational scaffolding that empowered Black adults to bypass discriminatory voting hurdles through education.

6. The execution of the 'Freedom Summer' project in 1964 relied heavily on white college students from the North to bring national attention to Mississippi's voter registration crisis.

Answer: A) True

True. Organizers believed that if white students were endangered, the federal government and national media would pay more attention to the violence in Mississippi than they had for Black residents.

7. Which specific event led directly to the creation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)?

Answer: A) The exclusion of Black voters from the regular state Democratic primary.

Because Black citizens were barred from the official state party, they formed the MFDP to challenge the legitimacy of the all-white delegation at the 1964 National Convention.

8. Fannie Lou Hamer is famous for her 1964 testimony where she asked, 'Is this America?' after being fired and beaten for attempting to ____.

Answer: B) Register to vote

Hamer's testimony about the brutal consequences of trying to register to vote highlighted the dangerous reality of disenfranchisement in the South.

9. Executive Order 8802, which banned discrimination in the defense industry, was the first major federal action towards civil rights in the 20th century.

Answer: A) True

True. Issued by FDR in 1941 after pressure from A. Philip Randolph, it set the precedent for federal intervention more than a decade before the major movements of the 50s.

10. What was the significance of the 24th Amendment during the Civil Rights era?

Answer: C) It outlawed the use of poll taxes in federal elections.

Poll taxes were used to economically disenfranchise Black and poor white voters; the 24th Amendment removed this financial barrier for federal contests.