



Gallery Walk Worksheet

The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Station No. 1	<p>Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee. A day earlier, King had delivered the famous “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech in Memphis, in which he addressed threats on his life by saying, “I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I’m happy, tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not fearing any man.” After his assassination, the U.S. was wrecked with grief, confusion, and frustration. Civil disorder and riots broke out in more than 100 cities across the U.S. in what came to be known as the “Holy Week Uprising.” Some of the protests turned violent, with looting and property damage occurring in multiple cities. It was not until more than 58,000 National Guardsmen and army troops joined state and local police that the uprisings ceased. By the time the riots subsided, 43 men and women had died. The largest protest occurred in Washington D.C. 1,200 buildings in the nation’s capital had been burned and the city had incurred millions of dollars of damage.</p>
<p><i>What is your reaction to the images and the event described? How does it relate to any of the other stations?</i></p>	

African-American Soldiers in Vietnam

Station No. 2	<p>Between 1961 and 1973, the United States sent hundreds of thousands of American soldiers to fight in the Vietnam War to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. The American public was bitterly divided about the conflict. Thousands of protesters participated in antiwar demonstrations across the country. Record numbers of African-American soldiers fought and died in the Vietnam War. A controversial development occurred in 1966 when Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara instituted a plan called “Project 100,000.” It was aimed at recruiting soldiers that had not initially passed the military’s physical or written aptitude tests. In addition to providing the military with a surge of troops, the intention was that the project would provide men from disadvantaged backgrounds the training they needed to succeed in the military, and later, in civilian life. But the plan backfired. Many accused it of being a racist policy. Of the new recruits, 40% were African American. Around 75% of all the men recruited ended up in combat roles, many on the front lines. To complicate matters, many African-American soldiers returned home to cities that were more segregated than when they left, with few jobs available and racial tensions running high.</p>
<p><i>What is your reaction to the images and the event described? How does it relate to any of the other stations?</i></p>	

The Assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy

Station No. 3	Senator Robert F. Kennedy was a leading Democratic candidate for the Presidential Election in 1968, and was the brother of former President John F. Kennedy. Sen. Kennedy was killed at the age of 42 on June 5, 1968 at a campaign celebration, directly after winning the California Primary. This political assassination occurred just months after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and shocked the nation. Sen. Kennedy was known as a key supporter of equal rights and desegregation. He helped to write the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was a landmark piece of U.S. legislation that outlawed segregation. He also gave political support and tried to arrange safe transportation for the “Freedom Riders” who protested segregation by riding buses throughout the South. On his political beliefs and fight for equality he often said, “Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not?”
What is your reaction to the images and the event described? How does it relate to any of the other stations?	

Urban Riots Across America

Station No. 4	In the mid-to-late 1960s, civil unrest and riots gripped African-American neighborhoods in hundreds of cities across the U.S. In August 1965, 34 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured during riots in the Watts section of Los Angeles. In July 1967, 26 people were killed in six days of civil unrest in Newark, New Jersey. In fact, all throughout the summer of 1967, more than 100 riots erupted across the nation. Riots were typically ignited by altercations between the local residents and the police, and brought into sharp focus by the racial tensions and poor living conditions in African-American neighborhoods. As a result of the rioting, President Lyndon Johnson formed a National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders in 1967. The Commission was tasked with understanding why riots were breaking out in different cities and would ultimately provide recommendations on how to address these issues. Their report was finished in 1968 and became informally known as the Kerner Report. The Kerner Report stated that the nation was “moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal.”
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