

“The Freedom Rides” Reading Assignment

(HS.2 Cause & Effect)

Directions: Read the article, “The Freedom Rides: Movement, Place, and Region.” On a separate piece of paper, write your answers using complete sentences regarding the causes and effects of the Freedom Rides mentioned in the article.

1. What basic right was the Supreme Court upholding that had not been enforced in many states at that time?
2. Name and describe the first group to organize the Freedom Rides.
3. Describe the path the Freedom Riders would travel and their mode of transportation.
4. In their travels, what did the Freedom Riders plan to do?
5. Why did the Freedom Riders target the Deep South?
6. Just as Martin Luther King Jr. warned the Riders during their meeting in May, explain what happened to the first bus line in Anniston. Explain what happened to the second bus line.
7. What group organized the “new team” of Freedom Riders?
8. Describe and evaluate the protection given the new team of Freedom Riders during their first day in Montgomery, Alabama. Explain your evaluation.
9. Explain how both Martin Luther King Jr. and the Attorney General Robert Kennedy able to support the Freedom Riders in Alabama and Mississippi.

***** (Answering the all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 2.0)

10. What objection did opponents of desegregation raise to the Freedom Riders?
11. Why do you think civil rights activists especially wish to desegregate public travel facilities?
12. Why do you think police protection was lacking when the Freedom Riders arrived in Montgomery? Provide 2-3 reasons.

***** (Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 2.5)

13. Do you agree or disagree with King’s opinion about “outsiders” working to change laws and customs in states other than their own? Explain your views.
14. Photographs taken of the burning bus in Anniston, Alabama and of the rioting in Birmingham appeared on the front pages of newspapers around the world, projecting a powerful image of American racism. What counterbalancing images from the drama of the Freedom Rides might have portrayed American concern for equality, peace, law, and order? Identify two examples.

***** (Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 3.0)

15. Draw a picture of ONE of the counterbalancing images from the drama of the Freedom Rides you wrote about in the question above.

***** (Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences and drawing the picture earns a 3.5)

The Route of the Freedom Rides

KEY

← Route of the Freedom Rides

1. Two groups of CORE Freedom Riders leave for New Orleans on May 4.
2. On May 5, Freedom Riders stop at Farmville, the site of the first school desegregation case.
3. On May 9, Freedom Riders attend mass meeting in town where students had staged a demonstration known as the Rock Hill Jail-In in February, 1961.
4. Freedom Riders arrive May 12, meet King on May 13, and leave again on May 14.
5. One bus is firebombed; the other continues after two Freedom Riders are beaten.
6. On arriving on May 14, several Riders are injured in the Mother's Day Riot; SNCC students take over the Freedom Ride, leaving on May 20.
7. Freedom Riders arrive May 20; 19 people injured in riot at bus station. Marshalls and National Guard protect Martin Luther King and church meeting from mob on May 21. Freedom Riders leave under heavy escort, May 24.
8. Mississippi National Guard replaces Alabama National Guard at Mississippi border.
9. Freedom Riders arrive May 24 and are immediately jailed for breach of peace.

