

GRADE 5 READING - BIOGRAPHY

Malcolm X: A Fighter for Civil Rights

Malcolm X was a prominent figure in the fight for civil rights in the United States. Born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska, as Malcolm Little, he would later become known as Malcolm X after joining the Nation of Islam. Let's learn more about this influential leader and his journey towards advocating for equality and justice.

From an early age, Malcolm experienced racial discrimination and injustice. His father's activism and his family's encounters with racism deeply influenced him. Unfortunately, his father's activism led to threats from white supremacist groups, and his family had to move several times.

After his family settled in Boston, Malcolm's early education was interrupted due to racial tensions and poor treatment in school. Despite this setback, Malcolm's passion for learning continued to grow. He educated himself by reading extensively while in prison, where he spent several years after being convicted of burglary.

It was during his time in prison that Malcolm X discovered the Nation of Islam, an African American religious and political movement. He embraced their teachings, which emphasized self-reliance, black empowerment, and the fight against white supremacy. Malcolm transformed himself spiritually and intellectually, becoming a prominent voice for the Nation of Islam.

Malcolm X's powerful speeches and unwavering dedication drew attention to the injustices faced by African Americans. He advocated for self-defense and the use of any means necessary to protect the rights and lives of black people. His radical views and calls for change made him a controversial figure during the civil rights movement.

However, after a pilgrimage to Mecca, Malcolm X underwent a significant transformation. He recognized the potential for racial harmony and unity among people of different races and backgrounds. He distanced himself from the Nation of Islam and started his own organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, to promote black self-determination and human rights.

Tragically, Malcolm X's life was cut short when he was assassinated on February 21, 1965, at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. His legacy continues to inspire people around the world to fight against racial injustice and inequality.

1. What was Malcom X's birth name?
 - A) Malcolm King
 - B) Malcolm Johnson
 - C) Malcolm Little
 - D) Malcolm Davis

2. Which organization did Malcolm X join that influenced his beliefs and teachings?
 - A) Nation of Islam
 - B) Civil Rights Movement
 - C) Black Panthers
 - D) Ku Klux Klan

3. What does the word "activism" mean in the passage?
 - A) The act of fighting for equality and justice
 - B) The act of reading extensively
 - C) The act of moving from place to place
 - D) The act of engaging in religious practices

4. What does the word "controversial" mean in the passage?
 - A) Harming others physically
 - B) Peaceful and calm
 - C) Causing disagreement or argument
 - D) Determined and unwavering

5. Why did Malcolm X spend several years in prison?
 - A) For advocating for civil rights
 - B) For burglary
 - C) For leading protests
 - D) For writing influential books

6. What did Malcolm X advocate for during the civil rights movement?
 - A) Nonviolent resistance
 - B) Racial segregation
 - C) Self-defense and black empowerment
 - D) Integration and equality

7. What event led to Malcolm X's transformation and changed his views on racial harmony?
 - A) His release from prison
 - B) A visit to Mecca
 - C) A meeting with Martin Luther King Jr.
 - D) A speech at the United Nations

8. When and where was Malcolm X assassinated?
- A) February 21, 1965, in Chicago
 - B) February 21, 1965, in New York City
 - C) July 4, 1776, Boston
 - D) December 7, 1941, in New York City
9. What is the purpose of this passage?
- A) To inform readers about Malcom X's life and his fight for civil rights
 - B) To entertain readers with fictional stories about civil rights activists
 - C) To persuade readers to join the Nation of Islam
 - D) To teach readers about the history of Omaha, Nebraska

Answers:

1. C) Malcolm Little
2. A) Nation of Islam
3. A) The act of fighting for equality and justice
4. C) Causing disagreement or argument
5. B) For burglary
6. C) Self-defense and black empowerment
7. B) A visit to Mecca
8. B) February 21, 1965, in New York City
9. A) To inform readers about Malcolm X's life and his fight for civil rights