Opening Doors

Read and summarize Helen Keller's life and work.

SS24.5.3c "Summarize Helen Keller's life and her contributions to disability rights."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one challenge Keller faced, circle one learning milestone, and put a star beside two actions she took to help people with disabilities. Use these details to summarize her life and work.

Helen Keller: Learning and Leading

1. Helen Keller was born in Alabama in 1880. When she was 19 months old, an illness left her unable to see or hear. As a young child, she struggled to share her thoughts with other people. In 1887, teacher Anne Sullivan began spelling words into Helen's hand. At a water pump, Helen connected the letters Sullivan spelled into her hand with the water she felt.

2. Keller learned to read Braille and later learned to speak. She went to college and graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904. She was the first deafblind person to earn a college degree. Keller wrote about her experiences, including the challenges of learning in a world built mainly for people who could see and hear. Her life showed that disability did not end a person's chance to learn.

3. During the Progressive Era, many Americans pushed for changes to make life fairer. Keller joined this work. She spoke and wrote in support of education and jobs for people who were blind or deaf. In 1924, she began working with the American Foundation for the Blind. She helped raise money and called for better services. Her work challenged the idea that people with disabilities should be left out.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize a challenge Keller faced as a child and what helped her begin to communicate.

2. How did Keller's education challenge an idea people might have had about disability? Use two details from the passage.

3. Summarize two ways Keller worked to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

4. In two sentences, summarize how Keller's life experiences led to her work for people with disabilities.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for visitors who know only that Keller could not see or hear. Summarize how she learned and reached a goal, describe two different ways she supported people with disabilities, and explain what she wanted to change.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one challenge Keller faced, circle one learning milestone, and put a star beside two actions she took to help people with disabilities. Use these details to summarize her life and work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize a challenge Keller faced as a child and what helped her begin to communicate.	**After an illness left Keller unable to see or hear, Anne Sullivan spelled words into her hand and helped her connect them with things she felt.**
2	How did Keller's education challenge an idea people might have had about disability? Use two details from the passage.	**Keller learned to read Braille and became the first deafblind person to earn a college degree, showing that disability did not end a person's chance to learn.**
3	Summarize two ways Keller worked to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.	**She spoke and wrote in support of education and jobs for people who were blind or deaf. She also worked with the American Foundation for the Blind to raise money and call for better services.**
4	In two sentences, summarize how Keller's life experiences led to her work for people with disabilities.	**Keller learned to communicate and earned a college degree after an illness left her unable to see or hear. She used her voice and writing to support education, jobs, and better services for people with disabilities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As a child, Helen Keller learned to connect letters spelled into her hand with the things she felt. She later graduated from college, showing what a deafblind person could achieve. Keller spoke and wrote in support of education and jobs for people who were blind or deaf. She also worked with the American Foundation for the Blind to seek better services because she wanted people with disabilities to have more opportunities.

Accept accurate summaries in students' own words. For the museum label, look for a learning milestone, a later goal, two distinct actions, and an explanation of the change Keller sought.