

A Nation Mourns

Trace how three assassinations changed American society in the 1960s.

SS5H6.c "Describe the impact on American society of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or phrases that show how Americans reacted, and underline words or phrases that show a change in society or government.

Loss, Response, and Change

- ① On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas. News spread quickly through television and radio. Many Americans watched the funeral, mourned together, and remembered where they were when they heard. The assassination shocked a country that had seen Kennedy as a young, energetic leader. It also made people fear that political violence could strike national leaders.
- ② On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. King had led peaceful protests for civil rights. His death brought grief and anger, and unrest broke out in many cities. It showed how deeply racism and unfair treatment hurt the nation. Congress passed the Fair Housing Act soon afterward, a law that banned housing discrimination, while many people continued working for civil rights.
- ③ Two months later, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot in Los Angeles after winning California's Democratic primary. He died on June 6, 1968. Kennedy had spoken about ending poverty, racism, and the Vietnam War. His death added to the country's sadness and worry after King's assassination. Americans demanded better protection for public leaders, and the federal government expanded Secret Service protection for major presidential candidates.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did television and radio shape the public response to President Kennedy's assassination?

2 What feelings and events followed Dr. King's assassination in many American cities?

3 What problem in American society did Dr. King's death make especially clear?

4 What change did the federal government make after Robert F. Kennedy's death?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label about how these three assassinations changed American society. Name all three people, explain one shared impact, and include two specific examples of how Americans or the government responded.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle words or phrases that show how Americans reacted, and underline words or phrases that show a change in society or government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did television and radio shape the public response to President Kennedy's assassination?	They spread the news quickly and allowed many Americans to mourn together by watching the funeral.
2	What feelings and events followed Dr. King's assassination in many American cities?	His death brought grief and anger, and unrest broke out in many cities.
3	What problem in American society did Dr. King's death make especially clear?	It showed how deeply racism and unfair treatment hurt the nation.
4	What change did the federal government make after Robert F. Kennedy's death?	It expanded Secret Service protection for major presidential candidates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy shook Americans during the 1960s. President Kennedy's death led people across the nation to mourn together through television and radio. Dr. King's murder brought grief and anger and drew attention to racial injustice. Soon afterward, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act. After Robert Kennedy's death, the federal government expanded Secret Service protection for major presidential candidates.

Accept answers that connect each assassination to effects on public feelings, civil rights, safety, or government action stated in the passage. For the museum label, accept accurate five-sentence responses that name all three people and include a shared impact plus two specific responses.