Ready Before Needed

How military registration helps a nation prepare

5.C.6.5.G "how registration for military service ensures the nation is prepared to defend itself."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline two details that show how registration helps the nation prepare, and circle one detail that shows what registration does not do.

A List Before an Emergency

1. Imagine a serious threat to the United States. The country might need more people to serve in its military. To prepare for that possibility, the Selective Service System keeps a list of people who may be called if a draft is ever started. In the United States, most men must register when they turn 18. Registration gives the government basic information, such as a person's name and address.

2. A name on this list does not mean someone has joined the military. The United States has not used a draft since 1973. If the nation needed a draft again, Congress and the president would have to authorize it. The government could then use the registration list to help contact people who might be called. Without a list, finding and contacting possible recruits could take longer.

3. A list alone cannot defend a country. People who are called would still need to be checked, trained, and given equipment before they could serve. Yet registration saves an early step: collecting names before an emergency happens. That advance planning can help the nation respond faster if it needs more service members. Registration helps the country prepare, even though it does not mean a draft will happen.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does collecting names before an emergency help the nation prepare?

2. If a draft were started, how could the names and addresses from registration help?

3. Why does registering today not mean a person will be called to serve?

4. Why is a registration list not enough to make people ready to serve?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your town wants a short radio message about how registration helps during a possible future emergency. Write three sentences that connect the list to a possible draft, explain what people would still need before serving, and clear up one mistake someone might make about registration.

ANSWER KEY

Ready Before Needed

GRADE 5 · 5.C.6.5.G

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline two details that show how registration helps the nation prepare, and circle one detail that shows what registration does not do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does collecting names before an emergency help the nation prepare?	**It saves the time of collecting names during an emergency, so the nation can respond faster if it needs more service members.**
2	If a draft were started, how could the names and addresses from registration help?	**The government could use them to help find and contact people who might be called.**
3	Why does registering today not mean a person will be called to serve?	**Registration is not joining the military, and a draft would first need authorization from Congress and the president.**
4	Why is a registration list not enough to make people ready to serve?	**People who are called would still need to be checked, trained, and given equipment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Registering now gives the government a list of people it might contact if Congress and the president authorize a draft during a future emergency. That list could help the country reach people faster, but those called would still need to be checked, trained, and equipped. Being on the list does not mean someone has joined the military.

Accept responses that explain the list's role in contacting people more quickly if a draft is authorized. Students should not suggest that registration automatically starts a draft or makes someone ready to serve.