

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Civil Rights **Answers**

# Sit Ins



**Directions:** Read about sit-ins, then answer the questions on the following page.

In 1960, four students staged a nonviolent protest against segregation that would help **mobilize** hundreds of anti-segregationists.

Woolworth's was a chain store with many locations across the country. Though it was a store, many stores also had a small restaurant where shoppers could buy light meals. In Southern states, many of these restaurants were segregated.

In 1960, four college students who wanted to end segregation went to their local Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. They sat in the whites-only section and asked to be served, but the staff refused to serve them. The manager asked them to leave the restaurant but they would not. They stayed until the restaurant closed.

They went back to school and told their friends about it. The next day, 25 people joined them. The day after that, 60 people. The day after that, over 100. On the fourth day, 300 people were peacefully protesting segregation with them. The protesters all followed the same rules: they would come in, sit in the white section, ask for service, and when they were told they could not be served, would stay in their seats until closing time, thus preventing any new customers from coming in. Though people who opposed their protest **taunted** them and sometimes even hurt them, the protesters remained calm and stayed in their seats. To pass the time, they would read, study, or do homework.

By the second day of the protest, the news had reported on the event, which spread word of their protest to other parts of the country. Soon, all over the south, African Americans and their **allies** were staging sit-ins at Woolworth's lunch counters, and friends who did not participate in the sit-ins urged others not to shop at Woolworth's stores. The attention from the media helped people all over the country hear about the injustice that was happening in the south.

Five months later, after sales at the stores dropped by one third, Woolworth's agreed to integrate their lunch counters. This was a **milestone** in the fight for civil rights: up until then, African Americans had voiced their disapproval of segregation, but had always followed the rules. The way the protesters achieved change through peaceful protest told the rest of the country that change was coming.

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## Answers

**Vocabulary:** Match the word with the definition:

- mobilize** — Teased or “egged on”
- taunted** — Encourage to take action with others
- allies** — An important event
- milestone** — People who work together toward the same goal

**1.** What was the meaning behind the protesters’ refusal to leave?

The protestors wanted to peacefully show their disagreement with segregation.  
They were able to draw attention to the in justice of segregation with their sit-ins.

**2.** Why do you think the protesters stayed silent when being teased by other patrons? How did this help their cause?

One reason why protestors stayed silent while people teased them could be to help keep the sit-ins peaceful. They might have realized that arguing would make the situation combative.