

Civil Rights Answers

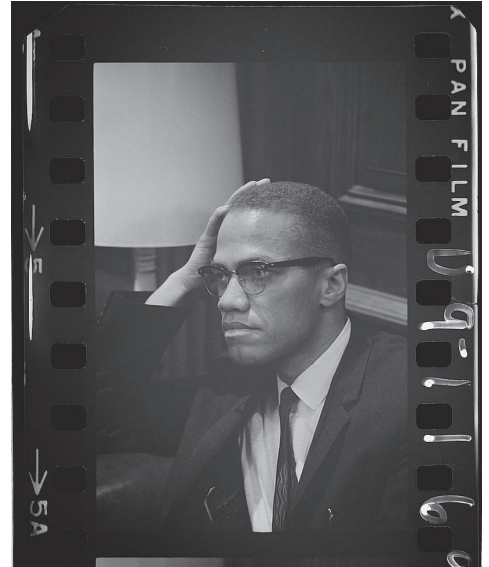
The Later Years of the Movement

Directions: Read about the later years of the civil rights movement below. Then follow the writing prompt on the next page.

By the end of the '60s, the Civil Rights movement had changed a lot. Many goals had been met: segregation had ended, housing discrimination was made illegal, and discriminatory voting practices had been outlawed. However, there was still more work to be done: many peaceful demonstrations in the late '60s ended in bloody fighting.

Though they had won many legal rights, African Americans were still looked down upon by many people. Many citizens still refused to accept them into their communities and attacked and hurt them. In 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Though leaders asked citizens to remain calm in response to the terrible news, riots broke out all over the country.

People's attitudes toward how African Americans should achieve their rights had changed. Though the ideals of nonviolence had spread to other protests going on at the time, many people wondered if it was still working. Some began to believe that if confronted with violence, people should defend themselves and fight back. Activists like Malcolm X argued that for African Americans to achieve power in society, they should not work with others but should work to improve their own neighborhoods and communities to show that they could do it without the help of white people. He and other activists thought that integration and equality might cause African Americans to blend in and lose their individuality, and encouraged his followers to take pride in their African heritage and culture. Many people agreed with his ideas, and by the end of the 1960s, groups that encouraged self-defense and self-reliance were becoming just as influential as those that wanted nonviolent protests.



Civil rights leader Malcom X

“ Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. ”

— Malcom X

Name _____

Date _____

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What do you think? As the movement wore on, many people began to change their minds about nonviolence. What do you think: would nonviolence work in modern society? Why or why not?

Student answers will vary, but should be relevant, timely, and thoughtfully considered.

Think of an issue that is happening today. What is the best nonviolent way to handle it? Would nonviolence help solve it?

Student answers will vary, but should be relevant, timely, and thoughtfully considered.
