

Name _____ Date _____

NATIONAL TREASURES

GREENSBORO SIT-IN

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage below, then answer the questions that follow.

In February of 1960, four students sat down at the Woolworths lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, and were denied service by the staff, who said the restaurant would not serve African Americans. Instead of leaving, Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair Jr., Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond decided to stay in their seats until closing. They then asked their friends to help them start a nonviolent **protest** of the **unjust** rule, which was in use in many public places across the country. Word spread and soon “sit-ins” were being staged at **segregated** lunch counters across the South. That summer, Woolworths changed their policy so that customers of all races would be served. The Greensboro Sit-Ins were not the first sit-ins ever staged, but were one of the most successful nonviolent protests of the civil rights movement. The Greensboro Woolworths is now a museum about the civil rights movement, and a section of the lunch counter is on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

QUESTIONS:

1. Name another famous nonviolent protester and describe how their actions impacted other people.

2. How does nonviolence help solve conflicts? Is there any way it doesn’t help?



The Greensboro Woolworths is now a museum about civil rights.



The Greensboro Sit-In was one of many sit-ins that took place throughout the South. Here, students participate at a sit-in at a Woolworths in Durham, North Carolina.

VOCABULARY

protest: a statement of disapproval

unjust: unfair

segregated: to force the separation of a group of people from the rest of society