

Guided Viewing: Peter Jennings Poisoned Dreams: 1960-1963

1. What impact did the sit-in at Woolworths have on the Civil Rights movement? Who was at the forefront of the movement? This sit-in began to ignite an even stronger desire for equal rights in the South and soon almost every city in the Southern states was lively with desegregation protesting. Martin Luther King Jr was most likely the leader of the Civil Rights Movement at the time.

2. Why did Kennedy have such an appeal to many Americans? Why are the Presidential debates b/n Kennedy & Nixon important?

Kennedy was seen as the perfect candidate for a new age and for new ideas. For the first time in American history the candidates would be asked certain questions and it would be seen how they answer them and it was done live on TV. Those who listened on the radio believed Nixon had won; but those who watched the debate on TV believed that Kennedy had the edge.

3. Describe the space race and its significance to the Cold War. Both sides believed that whichever side had better rocket technology would gain a precise edge should war break out. It was believed that one side might be able to arm satellites with nuclear warheads and they could fire them whenever they want.

4. What was the Bay of Pigs fiasco?

The fiasco happened when US supported exiles from Cuba tried to invade and take down Castro, communist dictator of Cuba. The invasion failed and the US was humiliated.

5. What was the situation in Berlin in 1961? Why was this more dangerous than in previous years? Explain the Berlin Wall. With failed invasion of Cuba the Soviets believed America was weak and sent troops in to Berlin and demanded that all US forces leave the city. America refused to leave. Soon the Soviets ordered that the Berlin wall be built to keep people from escaping from East Berlin into West Berlin. Anyone who tried to escape would often be shot right there. Yet people kept on trying.

6. What started the Cuban Missile Crisis? How does the Kennedy Administration respond?

The crisis began when it was discovered that Soviet Nuclear tipped missiles had been placed on Cuba. The Kennedy Administration decided that the only way to have these missiles removed is to have the Soviets take them back. The Soviets started the crisis and they would have to end it.

7. What is the outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis?

The US set up a blockade that would force any Soviet ship that approached to turn back. For three days the world held its breathe as WW3 threatened to erupt at any moment and it could mean the end of all life. Finally Russia agreed to take back the Nuclear warheads the threat was over.

8. Who are the Freedom Riders and what are they trying to accomplish?

The Freedom riders were civil rights leaders who rode public buss in to the deep South to try and bring integration. Of course after the first bus of Freedom Riders was fire bombed many of them realized that if they were going to succeed some of them might die.

9. How are the Civil Rights activists “serving their country”? What happened to the Freedom riders in Montgomery?

The activists believed that they were fighting for freedom much like soldiers do where they do not fear death and they are willing to risk their lives for freedom. The Freedom Riders that traveled to Montgomery, Alabama were attacked by over one-hundred white people with baseball bats, chains, bottles, and wooden boards.

10. What is SNCC? Describe their tactics.

SNCC also known as the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee was established as a way to really help the movement. Their tactics were non-violent where they would go into a town and by getting arrested and fill up the prisons they would break down the fear of being arrested.

11. Why did the Civil Rights movement focus on Birmingham?

How do the Birmingham police change their tactics?

Birmingham was the most violent city in the South there were often bombings and murder every week. The governor of Alabama, George Wallace, refused to desegregate the schools. When the Birmingham police saw that jailing the protestors was not enough they moved on to beating them with sticks, bringing attack dogs, and using high power water hoses.

12. Why was the March on Washington organized?

The march was organized to show that the American people were ready for change and they would keep fighting until they achieved it. The march also led to MLK Jr's speech of "I have a dream."

13. How did Martin Luther King make people feel?

Martin inspired people to do things that thought they would never do in their lifetime he gave them hope and courage. Perhaps his final and most powerful playing card was his speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

14. What is the Peace Corp? Why was it established by President Kennedy?

The Peace Corp's goal was to help struggling nations around the world by providing food, water, clothing, and medicine. Its other purpose was to keep communism from spreading to these countries just as it happened in Eastern Europe.

15. What is the Domino Theory? What does it cause America to do in Vietnam?

The Domino Theory claimed that if one country falls to communism then it would only be a matter of time before every other country in that region would fall to communism as well. America sent advisers and special forces to help the South Vietnamese fight communist guerrillas that were being supplied by communist North Vietnam.

16. What happened on Nov. 22, 1963? What impact does it have on America psychologically?

On this day President John F. Kennedy was shot by a sniper during his ride in an open car he died within hours. Kennedy's death made many Americans believe that how that we be safe if even the president isn't safe from harm. This event brought great fear throughout the country.

