

We Shall Overcome

by Lyndon B. Johnson

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: abundant, bigotry, colleague, comprehensive, conscience, democracy, emancipated, grandeur, ingenious, ingenuity, legacy, persist, persistent, prejudice, principle, provoke, republic, tedious, thoroughfare, veto



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	C
17	B
18	C
19	A
20	C

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The region has **abundant** natural resources, from oil to fresh water.
 - A. extremely scarce
 - B. highly disputed
 - C. widely available
2. She accused the paper of religious **bigotry**.
 - A. confusion
 - B. ignorance
 - C. prejudice
3. The surgeon consulted her **colleague** before the operation.
 - A. former teacher
 - B. private patient
 - C. fellow worker
4. The book provides a **comprehensive** history of the revolution.
 - A. modern
 - B. complete
 - C. early
5. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
 - A. sense of right and wrong
 - B. memory of past events
 - C. fear of public ridicule
6. Canada has a **parliamentary democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
7. The new law **emancipated** thousands of laborers from forced servitude.
 - A. punished harshly
 - B. trained as servants
 - C. freed from bondage
8. The palace was famous for its **grandeur** and ornate decoration.
 - A. shabby plainness
 - B. majestic splendor
 - C. tiny size
9. Her **ingenious** plan let the class finish the project with only a few supplies.
 - A. clever and original
 - B. quick but careless
 - C. plain and ordinary
10. It's going to take a lot of **ingenuity**, but I think we can save the company.
 - A. creativity
 - B. money
 - C. time
11. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
 - A. inheritance
 - B. meal
 - C. "todo" list
12. We expect the conditions to **persist** into next year.
 - A. grow worse
 - B. continue
 - C. go away

13. The **persistent** rain finally stopped after flooding streets for a full week.
- A. quickly ending
 - B. continuing steadily
 - C. suddenly starting
14. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may **prejudice** the jury against the defendant.
- A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in
15. One guiding **principle** is that everyone should be treated fairly.
- A. rule or belief
 - B. complaint
 - C. answer or result
16. We should not permit deeply offensive words that **provoke** violence.
- A. stop
 - B. distract from
 - C. cause
17. A **republic** is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
18. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
19. It's the city's main east-west **thoroughfare**.
- A. main road
 - B. landmark
 - C. dividing line
20. The president decided to **veto** the bill passed by Congress.
- A. openly support
 - B. publicly debate
 - C. officially reject

Vocabulary in Context

We Shall Overcome

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of **Democracy**.
 - A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 2 Rarely are we met with a challenge, not to our growth or **abundance**, or our welfare or our security, but rather to the values and the purposes and the meaning of our beloved nation.
 - A. sharpness or intenseness
 - B. conflict or disagreement
 - C. large amount or quantity
- 3 Every device of which human **ingenuity** is capable, has been used to deny this right.
 - A. ability to solve problems in smart creative ways
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 4 And if he **persists** and, if he manages to present himself to the registrar, he may be disqualified because he did not spell out his middle name, or because he abbreviated a word on the application.
 - A. disagrees
 - B. continues
 - C. subtracts
- 5 Experience has clearly shown that the existing process of law cannot overcome systematic and **ingenious** discrimination.
 - A. showing cleverness and originality
 - B. a tendency to think back on things
 - C. aware or concerned about something
- 6 The broad **principles** of that bill will be in the hands of the Democratic and Republican leaders tomorrow.
 - A. basic rules or beliefs
 - B. subtle characteristics
 - C. long eventful journeys
- 7 The broad **principles** of that bill will be in the hands of the Democratic and **Republican** leaders tomorrow.
 - A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development
- 8 I am grateful for this opportunity to come here tonight at the invitation of the leadership to reason with my friends, to give them my views and to visit with my former **colleagues**.
 - A. scales where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - B. mammals of a specific type that seldom move and are typically very slow when they do move
 - C. fellow workers -- especially in a respected profession such as teaching, medicine, or law
- 9 I have had prepared a more **comprehensive** analysis of the legislation which I had intended to transmit to the clerk tomorrow, but which I will submit to the clerks tonight.
 - A. capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. large in scope; or including everything or everything important
 - C. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
- 10 It will eliminate **tedious**, unnecessary lawsuits which delay the right to vote.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. boring or monotonous

- 11 *Because it's not just Negroes, but really it's all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.*
 A. something coming from the past
 B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 12 *Because it's not just Negroes, but really it's all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.*
 A. not able to be translated
 B. not tending to find fault
 C. intolerance and prejudice
- 13 *But **emancipation** is a proclamation and not a fact.*
 A. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 B. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
 C. the act of being released from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
- 14 *His actions and protests, his courage to risk safety, and even to risk his life, have awakened the conscience of this nation.*
 A. feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
 B. a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
 C. not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion
- 15 *His demonstrations have been designed to call attention to injustice, designed to **provoke change**; designed to stir reform.*
 A. notable difference
 B. come to terms with
 C. cause (a reaction)
- 16 *And who among us can say that we would have made the same progress were it not for his **persistent** bravery and his faith in American democracy?*
 A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 B. continuing -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
 C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 17 *But free assembly does not carry with it the right to block public **thoroughfares** to traffic.*
 A. main roads
 B. blockages
 C. frameworks
- 18 *And they knew even in their youth the pain of **prejudice**.*
 A. fear, or anticipate with worry (commonly only seen in the forms "apprehensive" and "apprehension," but seen in this form in classic literature)
 B. to expression feelings or thoughts enthusiastically OR to squirt or give off (typically under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 19 *But I do not want to be the president who built empires, or sought **grandeur**, or extended dominion.*
 A. interaction or interest
 B. impressive magnificence
 C. a drawing or photograph
- 20 *And so, at the request of your beloved Speaker and the Senator from Montana, the Majority Leader, the Senator from Illinois, the Minority Leader, Mr. McCulloch and other members of both parties, I came here tonight, not as President Roosevelt came down one time in person to **veto** a bonus bill; not as President Truman came down one time to urge passage of a railroad bill, but I came down here to ask you to share this task with me.*
 A. find, search, or research
 B. being a boundary or limit
 C. block (prevent) an action

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	democracy	Used 4 times in this speech.
2	C	abundant	High-utility academic word
3	A	ingenuity	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	B	persist	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	A	ingenious	Used 2 times in this speech.
6	A	principle	High-utility academic word
7	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 2 times in this speech.
8	C	colleague	Used about 15 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	comprehensive	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	C	tedious	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	legacy	High-utility academic word
12	C	bigotry	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	emancipated	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	A	conscience	Used 2 times in this speech.
15	C	provoke	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	persistent	High-utility academic word
17	A	thoroughfare	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	C	prejudice	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	grandeur	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	C	veto	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library