SOLUTIONS UPPER-INTERMEDIATE 5 CULTURE 5: RACE RELATIONS

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A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF OBJECTION, DISAPPROVAL OR DISSENT TOWARDS AN IDEA OR ACTION, TYPICALLY POLITICAL ONE.

PROTEST A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF OBJECTION, DISAPPROVAL OR DISSENT TOWARDS AN IDEA OR ACTION, TYPICALLY A POLITICAL ONE.

1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What different ways of protesting can you think of?
- 2 What recent protests have taken place in your country, or in other countries?

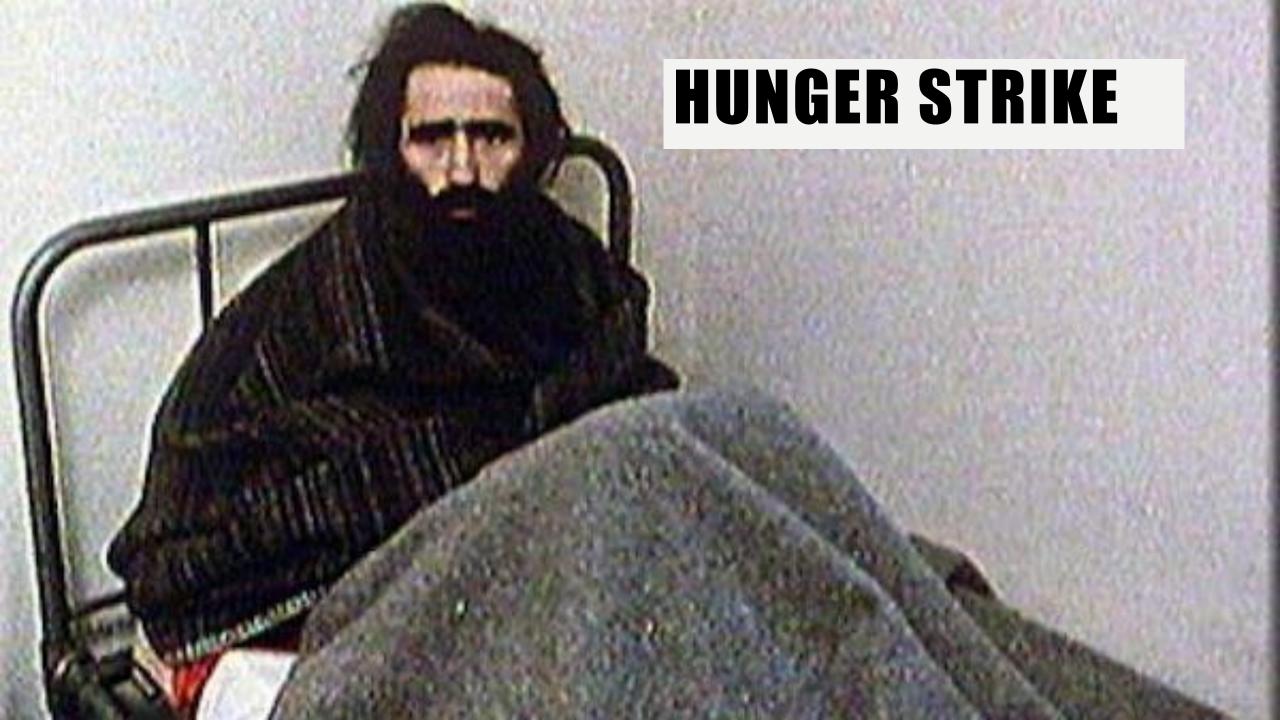










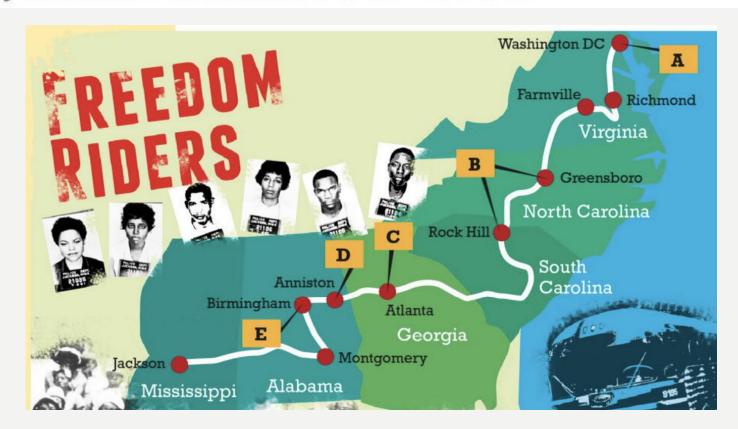






2 Read the text and say which things the Freedom Riders did.

- 1 The Freedom Riders broke the law.
- 2 They won the support of civil rights leaders.
- 3 They attracted a lot of media attention.







WAITING ROOM FOR COLORED ONLY

BY ORDER

THE ACTION OR STATE OF SETTING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING APART FROM OTHERS.

WAITING ROOM
FOR COLORED ONLY

BY ORDER

SEGREGATION: THE ACTION OR STATE OF SETTING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING APART FROM OTHERS.

WAITING ROOM
FOR COLORED ONLY

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Freedom Riders

After the Second World War, African Americans who had served their country were not willing to return to a segregated society, where they would not be allowed to make use of the same public services, educational facilities and transport as white Americans. America was aware that change was necessary, but for many citizens, both black and white, it wasn't changing fast enough, especially in the south.

In 1960, the Supreme Court had ruled that African

10 Americans had the right to use the same facilities as
white people when travelling across the country. However,
black people still faced hostility and racism in the south.
At coach and rail stations in states such as Alabama,
Mississippi and Louisiana, black travellers found signs in

15 waiting rooms and restaurants that said 'Whites only'. These
signs openly broke the laws of the country, but President
Kennedy's government was more worried about the nuclear
threat from the USSR than domestic issues.

As a result, a civil rights organisation called the Congress 20 of Racial Equality (CORE) decided that if they couldn't count on the government to enforce the law, they would force the country to sit up and notice the unconstitutional behaviour of the southern states. Thirteen people, black and white, were chosen to travel on two coaches from

25 Washington, D.C. to New Orleans in Louisiana in the Deep South. The objective was to see what would happen when the African Americans attempted to exercise their rights in the southern states.

30 However, not everybody in the civil rights movement thought the trip was a good idea. Neither Martin Luther King nor other prominent leaders thought that the Freedom Riders, as they became known,

and told them to call it off. Despite these warnings, on 4 May 1961, the thirteen volunteers boarded two coaches with three journalists and set off on a trip that would 40 become front page news around the world.

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What did African Americans not want to experience again after the war?
- 2 What did some citizens think of the changes taking place in American society?
- 3 Why was there a problem with the Supreme Court's decision about transportation?
- 4 Why didn't the Kennedy government show much interest?
- 5 What was CORE's objective?
- 6 Why were some prominent civil rights leaders against the trip?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT FREEDOM RIDERS?

- 4 4.19 Listen and match the events (1–5) with the towns on the map (A–E).
 - 1 The local police allowed a crowd to violently attack the Freedom Riders at the coach station. ___
 - 2 The Freedom Riders received several days of training in how to deal non-violently with aggression. ___
 - 3 One of the coaches was attacked and firebombed by around two hundred white men. ___
 - 4 The Freedom Riders felt people were trying to avoid problems. ___
 - 5 Martin Luther King met them. ___

5 (A.19) Listen again. Are the sentences true or false? Write T or F.

- 1 The Freedom Riders thought they were well prepared. ____
- 2 The Freedom Riders were attacked in Rock Hill. ___
- 3 Martin Luther King warned them about the next stop on their journey. ___
- 4 A policeman acted to stop the crowd in Anniston. ___
- 5 A local police chief promised to protect the Freedom Riders. ___
- **6** The racist signs were removed. ___

6 SPEAKING In pairs, discuss the questions about protest.

- 1 Do you think peaceful protests have any effect on governments? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Would you have joined the Freedom Riders or an organisation like it if you had suffered injustice? Why? / Why not?
- 3 Are there any circumstances when you think violent protest is justified? Can you give any examples?

ASSIGNMENT: SUMMARY

DEADLINE: SATURDAY