Community Protection and Self Determination

First Name

Last Name

Essential Question

How did the Deacons for Defense and Justice and the Black Panther Party define freedom, protection, and community power?

Read, compare, calculate, and support a claim with evidence. This five day RST connects Social Studies, ELA, Mathematics, and Science. Readings are original classroom summaries unless quotation marks identify a brief source excerpt. Bracketed numbers refer to the sources in the teacher guide.

Learning Targets

Explain the purpose of each organization. Analyze all ten demands in the Panthers’ 1966 platform. Distinguish a participant’s claim from independently verified evidence. Interpret spatial and numerical information. Write a RACE response using both groups.

Vocabulary

SELF DETERMINATION means making decisions about one’s community. SEGREGATION means enforced separation. PLATFORM means a statement of political goals. CORROBORATION means checking a claim against other evidence. CAUSATION means one factor produces a change in another.

Print Edition

Write your answers on the provided lines. The separate digital edition contains fillable response boxes.

Day 1 • Protection and Civil Rights

Do Now

Can a legal right exist without reliable protection? Explain.

Reading A • The Deacons

A1 The Deacons for Defense and Justice began in Jonesboro, Louisiana, in 1964. Members protected Black communities and civil rights workers from Ku Klux Klan violence. Military veterans were important members. The organization later protected people participating in the 1966 March Against Fear in Mississippi. [1]

A2 A Bogalusa chapter formed in early 1965. Members protected local residents and organizers working with the Congress of Racial Equality, or CORE. These activists challenged segregation through demonstrations and organizing. Protection and public protest could operate together, even when participants disagreed about tactics. [2]

A3 In an August 20, 1965 interview, Bogalusa chapter president Charles Sims said inadequate police protection made the Deacons necessary. He described escorts for civil rights workers and argued that defense supported nonviolent political action. This is a participant’s explanation of his organization, not independent proof that every action succeeded. [3]

Source Check • What can Sims explain directly? What claim needs another source?

Quick Write • Explain how protection could support a nonviolent demonstration. Cite A2 or A3.