***Freedom Summer* (JUNE 21, 1964)**

**On August 4, 1964, the bodies of three Civil Rights workers, Michael Schwerner, James E. Chaney and Andrew Goodman, were found in a dam on a farm near Philadelphia, Mississippi. The three young men had disappeared six weeks earlier on June 21, 1964. These murders shocked Americans as news reports of these cold-blooded killings circulated throughout the nation. The men had been ambushed by the Ku Klux Klan in retaliation for their participation in a massive drive to register African American voters known as *Freedom Summer*. The events of that summer marked a turning point in U.S. history and in the Civil Rights Movement, mobilizing American society and helping spur Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.**

**QUESTIONS**

**1. Describe Freedom Summer. Why do you think activists decided to focus on registering voters?**

**2. Civil Rights workers tried to help African-Americans in the South register to vote. What were some of the obstacles African-Americans faced when trying to register to vote?**

**3. Although white students helped to bring media attention to the Civil Rights Movement, there were some complications. LIST the pros and cons of white students going down South to be a part of Freedom Summer.**

**4. The Ku Klux Klan targeted Michael Schwerner for assassination. Why? What did Schwerner do to upset the Klan?**

**5. Were you surprised by the violence the Civil Rights Movement provoked? Why do you think the KKK and others reacted so violently?**