

The Freedom Riders

After you watch the video, write short answers to these questions.

1. When did the Freedom Rides happen?

2. Where in the South did Freedom Riders challenge segregation? Why did they choose those locations?

3. Where did the buses start their journey in early May? Where did they encounter trouble? What kind of trouble did they encounter?

4. Why did the first group of Freedom Riders stop their effort? Who led the next group of Freedom Riders so that the Freedom Rides could continue?

5. Who was the attorney general in 1961? Why did he send someone to Birmingham?

6. Why did the Freedom Riders have trouble getting a bus to leave Birmingham?

7. What happened when the Freedom Riders got to Montgomery?

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8. How did John Seigenthaler, from the Attorney General's office, respond to a question about whose responsibility the beatings were?

9. How did Alabama's governor understand the Freedom Riders' actions? Based on what you know about segregation in 1961, why do you think he might have perceived the actions that way?

10. What did the federal government do in response to the violence in Montgomery? What was the result of their actions?

11. Why were the Freedom Riders arrested in Mississippi?

12. What was the outcome of the Freedom Rides?
