

Working with photographs

Name:

Date:



Civil rights march on Washington, D.C. Film negative by photographer Warren K. Leffler, 1963. From the U.S. News & World Report Collection. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division.

Are these statements true or false?

The photograph was taken in Washington, D.C. in 1963.

True False

The photograph was taken by a famous war photographer.

True False

The photograph shows a civil rights march with participants holding signs.

True False

The photograph is in color.

True False

The first impression of the photograph is one of peaceful protest and determination.

True False

The photograph was taken with an aerial perspective.

True False

The signs in the photograph demand equal rights, integrated schools, and an end to bias.

True False

The photograph was made for a fashion magazine audience.

True False



Method: Describing & Interpreting Historical Photographs

Start with the creation of the photograph: **When and where** was it taken? Who photographed for whom? Then describe the technical **properties** of the image: Color or black-and-white, perspective, distance, chosen framing. Next, describe exactly what can be seen and where: Foreground, background, left, right. Pay attention to details such as facial expressions, body posture, position of people. Finally, interpret the photograph by considering: What **impression** does the image leave on you? What overall statement can be made? Is the photograph credible? What questions remain unanswered?

Describe the mood and atmosphere of the civil rights march as captured in the photograph. Pay attention to the expressions of the participants and the messages on their signs.

Elucidate how the photograph captures and conveys the aims of the civil rights movement.
