

Warm-Up Activity:

Freedom means _____

"Those who choose comfort over freedom will have neither." - Benjamin Franklin

I think this quote means _____

Directions: Circle the correct answer.

1. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was born in 1918 in _____.
 - a. France
 - b. Germany
 - c. Russia
2. Stalin was _____ of the Soviet Union, which meant he had absolute power and authority over the country.
 - a. king
 - b. dictator
 - c. president
3. During Solzhenitsyn's childhood, what kind of government took control of his country?
 - a. Communist
 - b. Democratic
 - c. Republican
4. Despite hardships, Solzhenitsyn loved his homeland and served during _____, in which he was honored for being a hero in combat against invading _____.
 - a. World War One; Nazis
 - b. World War Two; Nazis
 - c. The Cold War; Communists
5. As the war was winding down, what did Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn begin questioning and having criticisms of?
 - a. Germany and the Nazis
 - b. Communism and Stalin
 - c. Communism and his faith



6. When Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn questioned Stalin's leadership in letters and conversations, he was punished and sent to an extremely harsh work prison, known as _____.
 - a. the Gulag
 - b. a concentration camp
 - c. a labor prison
7. What job did Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn find after he was released from prison?
 - a. a preacher
 - b. a soldier
 - c. a teacher
8. Which of the following did Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn **NOT** write books about?
 - a. the horrors of the Gulag
 - b. freedom
 - c. Stalin's achievements
9. In the video, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn explains, "It is very important for Americans to love and cherish your freedom because in the world, it is not common to be free, but it is also important to understand freedom does not mean that you are free from _____."
 - a. dictators
 - b. responsibility
 - c. disagreeing with authority
10. According to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, what do bad leaders like Stalin always attack?
 - a. free speech
 - b. compromise
 - c. anyone who disagrees with them
 - d. all of the above

Short Response:

11. How did Communist rule negatively impact Solzhenitsyn and his family? Provide at least one example from the video.

12. Why was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn kicked out of the Soviet Union and not allowed back?

13. What was the actual reason that caused Stalin to send Solzhenitsyn to prison?

Making Connections:

14. In the video, Leo asks how freedom of speech applies to kids at school. Do students in America have full freedom of speech? Explain using Solzhenitsyn's advice to Leo from the video.

15. What does Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's story teach you about the importance of freedom? Provide a specific example of how you can apply this lesson to your own life to better appreciate and value your freedom.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn | Answer Key

Warm-Up Activity:

Check students' work for completion.

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Short Response:

11. How did Communist rule negatively impact Solzhenitsyn and his family? Provide at least one example from the video.
Solzhenitsyn's family farm was taken, and his Christian faith was made illegal.
12. Why was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn kicked out of the Soviet Union and not allowed back?
Solzhenitsyn's writing about life, freedom, and the horrors of the Gulag made him very famous, but they made the communist government very angry. His writing was seen as a challenge to the government, which is illegal and punishable in a dictatorship.
13. What was the actual reason that caused Stalin to send Solzhenitsyn to prison?
Stalin was afraid of losing control of his power. Solzhenitsyn was telling the truth and exposing Stalin's bad leadership and bad ideas. Dictators like Stalin aim to control language so that they can control the people. Since Solzhenitsyn was not fully on Stalin's side, he was considered an enemy and sent to the Gulag.

Making Connections:

14. In the video, Leo asks how freedom of speech applies to kids at school. Do students in America have full freedom of speech? Explain using Solzhenitsyn's advice to Leo from the video.
Sample answer: It is very important for Americans to love and cherish freedom because in the world it is not common to be free, but it is also important to understand freedom does not mean that you are free from responsibility and respect. Students have the responsibility to respect their teachers. Respecting freedom of speech requires an understanding of the proper time and place. Many situations are complicated, which is why it's so important to have conversations where different opinions can be heard.
15. What does Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's story teach you about the importance of freedom? Provide a specific example of how you can apply this lesson to your own life to better appreciate and value your freedom.
Sample answer: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's story demonstrates the importance of freedom in a country. Everything depends on freedom, and we must fight to protect it. I will strive to always be grateful that I live in a country where I have the freedom to form my own opinions and make my own decisions.