

Name: _____



Soldiers escort African American students to Central High School in Little Rock in September 1957.



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schools was illegal. However, many schools across the United States were still segregated. This meant that students of color attended different schools than white students. It would take several years and many brave students to break the pattern of segregation. The Little Rock Nine were a group of African American students who fought for integration in public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In the summer of 1957, nine

the time it was an all-white school. The nine students were the first African American students to enroll. Their names were Melba Pattillo, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Minnijean Brown, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls, Jefferson Thomas, Gloria Ray, and Thelma Mothershed.

This group of students wasn't random. Each student was picked because they had strength and determination. During the summer before school started, the group

Name: _____

attended counseling sessions and classes teaching them how to respond to protesters.

When the nine students went to school on the first day, they were greeted by an angry mob of people who didn't want the schools to be integrated. The mob shouted and threw stones at the Little Rock Nine. The governor of Arkansas had also ordered the



Elizabeth Eckford, then 15, pursued by mob.



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The nine students tried again a few weeks later. This time they entered through the side door of the school to avoid the crowd of protesters. However, the protesters eventually found out that the students were inside. The Little Rock Nine were sent home again to keep them safe.

Finally, on September 25, 1957, the group made it through a full day of classes at Little Rock Central High School. The president of the

not easy. The Little Rock Nine faced violence every day. On May 27, 1958, Ernest Green became the first African American to graduate from Little Rock Central. The students' strength and determination helped them fight for what they believed in. President Clinton awarded each member of the group the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. The Little Rock Nine played a crucial role in the Civil Rights movement.

Name: _____



The Little Rock Nine

By Erin Sember

1. According to the article, how did the Little Rock Nine prepare to integrate the school?

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
- a. to inform the reader about how the Little Rock Nine played an important roll in the Civil Rights Movement
 - b. to persuade the readers that integration is important
 - c. to tell an entertaining story about integrating the public schools in Little Rock,



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before and after integration.

- c. The author uses sequence of events to show the challenges the Little Rock Nine faced while trying to integrate Little Rock Central High School.
 - d. The author uses sequence of events to explain how all schools across the United States became integrated.
4. Reread the sentences from the article.

This group of students wasn't random. Each student was picked because they had strength and determination.

Explain how the Little Rock Nine showed determination. Use details from the text to support your answer.

Name: _____

The Little Rock Nine

Use words from the article, "The Little Rock Nine," to complete the crossword.

1			2						
3									
4									
5									



Down:

2. the practice of keeping people of different races, religions, etc. separate from each other
6. a large crowd of people who are angry or violent
8. to enter as a member or participant
9. to stay away from

Across:

1. to make sure of something
3. a policy that allows people of different races to be together
4. a group of people who express strong disapproval of something
5. extremely important
7. a quality that makes you continue trying to do something that is difficult
10. not allowed by the law

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The Little Rock Nine



In the article, "The Little Rock Nine," you read about nine students who showed strength and determination when they faced a challenge.

On the lines below, write about a time when you were faced with a challenge. Be sure to include details about how you showed strength and determination.



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ANSWER KEY



The Little Rock Nine

By Erin Sember

1. According to the article, how did the Little Rock Nine prepare to integrate the school?

During the summer, the Little Rock Nine attended counseling sessions and classes teaching them how to respond to protestors.



Explain how the Little Rock Nine showed determination. Use details from the text to support your answer.

The Little Rock Nine showed determination because they continued to try to go to school even after they were stopped by soldiers and a mob yelled at them and threw things at them.

ANSWER KEY

The Little Rock Nine

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2. the practice of keeping people of different races, religions, etc. separate from each other
6. a large crowd of people who are angry or violent
8. to enter as a member or participant
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1. to make sure of something
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10. not allowed by the law