

CORE IDEAS

Common Core skills pages to use with any *Upfront* article

Dear Teachers,

The Common Core State Standards require high school students to analyze “informational texts” like *Upfront*. Students must be able to identify central ideas, determine the figurative, connotative, and technical meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases, understand and evaluate an author’s point of view, and compare accounts of the same topic in a variety of formats or media.

To help you satisfy the Common Core, we’re pleased to offer the following reproducible. “Core Ideas” can be used with any article in the magazine: You may choose to assign a specific article or let students pick one.

Because the Common Core calls on students to analyze and compare topics from different points of view, we suggest using “Core Ideas” with articles that feature sidebars, timelines, historical-document excerpts, and/or infographics. You might also want to use “Core Ideas” with supplementary online content, such as videos, slide shows, or audio interviews available at www.upfrontmagazine.com.

“Core Ideas” addresses these Reading Standards for Informational Literacy:

1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of the text.
2. Determine and analyze the central ideas of a text; provide an objective summary.
4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
6. Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text.
7. Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different media or formats.

“Core Ideas” addresses these Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies:

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
2. Determine the central ideas of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary.
4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
7. Compare the point of view of two or more authors on the same or similar topics.
9. Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several sources.

We hope this material challenges your students and assists you in meeting your curriculum goals throughout the year.

Best Regards,

Ian Zack



Executive Editor, *The New York Times Upfront*

CORE IDEAS

Article title and page number: _____

Answer the following questions.

1. Share the central ideas and key details of the article in a brief summary.

**2. How is this issue or event relevant or important to young people today?
Cite evidence from the article to support your response.**

CORE IDEAS (continued)

3. Identify two words or phrases in the text that are unfamiliar to you. Write the meaning of each and cite any context clues from the text that help you determine their meanings.

4. Describe the author’s point of view and/or purpose in writing this article.

5. Consider an accompanying element that supports the main text, such as a graph, timeline, separate article, or video. (Videos and other digital content are available at upfrontmagazine.com.) How does the second source contribute to your understanding of the topic? Compare and contrast the main text and accompanying element.

THE HIGH PRICE OF Cheap Fashion

What does your wardrobe have to do with a factory collapse in Bangladesh? BY PATRICIA SMITH

Belinda Aye, 17, goes clothes shopping at least every other week. More often than not, she comes home with a bag full of bargains.

Her favorite stores are Forever 21 and H&M, because they have a hip vibe, a good selection of trendy outfits, and low prices. One thing she doesn't usually consider: where her clothes are made and by whom.

"If I see a tag, then I'll think about where my clothes came from, but other than that, not really," says Aye, who

WATCH A VIDEO Fast Fashion

WWW.UPFRONTMAGAZINE.COM

JEANS
\$29.50 at
Old Navy
Made in
Bangladesh

SHOES
\$24.94 at
Old Navy
Made in China

SHOES
\$12.95 at H&M
Made in China

SHIRT
\$17.95 at H&M
Made in Bangladesh

T-SHIRT
\$5.95 at H&M
Made in
Bangladesh

SWEATER
\$19.94 at
Old Navy
Made in China

BLOUSE
\$17.95 at H&M
Made in China

SKIRT
\$5.95 at H&M
Made in
Bangladesh



Bangladesh: Digging through the rubble of a clothing factory that collapsed in April, killing 1,127 workers



China: Making cotton shirts for retailers like Banana Republic and J. Crew

graduated in June from Brooklyn Technical High School in New York City. "The main issue is affordability."

Americans love to shop, and for many, like Aye, the most important considerations are price and style. But some are now taking a harder look at where, how, and under what conditions their clothes are produced.

Much of the questioning stems from a disaster last April a world away in Bangladesh. A factory building collapsed, killing more than 1,100 workers and injuring 2,500 more. The workers had been making clothes to sell in the United States and Europe for companies like Benetton and Children's Place. Investigators later discovered that the

building owner had illegally added extra floors and allowed the factories inside to install heavy equipment that the building wasn't strong enough to support.

The deadliest accident in the history of the garment industry, the Bangladesh collapse has led to calls for greater safeguards for workers in third-world countries, where most of the clothes we wear are made.

"Consumers are definitely hooked on walking into a store and buying something cheap and trendy," says Elizabeth Cline, author of *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion*. "But more people are beginning to realize there are some hidden costs."

Some industry observers have dubbed today's clothing market "fast fashion."

Clothes are produced so rapidly—a design can go from sketch to store shelves in a few weeks—and can be manufactured so inexpensively that brands can churn out whole new collections month to month.

Cheaper Labor, Lower Prices

Until the 1970s, most of the clothes Americans wore were made in the U.S. That's when clothing production, like a lot of manufacturing, including cars and electronics, began shifting overseas where labor costs were much lower. As recently as 1990, 50 percent of the clothes sold in the U.S. were made in the U.S. Now, it's just 2 percent.

Today, most U.S. clothing companies manufacture their merchandise in

Your Clothes BY THE NUMBERS

20 billion

NUMBER of garments
Americans buy in a year.

SOURCE: OVERDRESSED

2%

PERCENTAGE of clothes sold in the U.S.
that are made in the U.S.

SOURCE: OVERDRESSED

\$73 billion

VALUE of clothes imported
into the U.S. in 2012.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

10 pounds

WEIGHT of clothes
thrown away, on average, by
each American in a year.

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

80%

PERCENTAGE decline in American
garment workers in the past 20 years.
The number has shrunk
from 900,000 to 150,000.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The Triangle Disaster

How a fire a century ago at a New York factory changed U.S. labor laws

The fire that broke out on March 25, 1911, at the Triangle Waist Company factory in New York City lasted only half an hour. But it killed 146 people and had an enormous impact on the nation.

Fed by oily floors and bins full of flammable material, the fire spread quickly through the factory where young immigrants made blouses. There was no sprinkler system. Many burned to death behind locked exit doors. Others plunged to the ground when a rusty fire escape collapsed. More than 50 workers had no alternative but to jump from a ninth-floor window as a crowd below looked on in horror.

The Triangle factory fire was one of the deadliest workplace disasters in American history.

"It was an incredibly galvanizing event for the nation's labor movement and the rights of workers," says Bruce Raynor, former president of Workers United, which represents garment workers. "After Triangle, people were



Battling the Triangle fire on March 25, 1911

so shocked, not only by the terrible disaster, but by the drama of these young immigrant women who were treated as less than human."

Within a few years of the Triangle fire, New York passed 36 safety laws, spurring other states to do the same. By 1938, Congress had banned child labor, set a national minimum wage, and guaranteed overtime pay.

countries like China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam, where factory workers earn a fraction of what U.S. workers make. Cheaper labor costs mean lower prices for shoppers and higher profits for retailers. That's helped make fashion a multi-billion-dollar global industry. And it's changed the way Americans shop.

In the late 1920s, the average middle-class woman owned nine outfits, rotating them until they wore out. As recently as the 1980s, most Americans bought new clothes two or three times a year as the seasons changed. But by introducing new items continually, stores lured customers into making more frequent purchases. By 1991, Americans were buying about 34 pieces of clothing a year, says Cline.

Since then, U.S. consumption of clothes has doubled: Today Americans buy on average 68 garments and eight

pairs of shoes per year. At the same time, the cost of clothing has plummeted. Americans today devote about 3 percent of their spending to clothes, compared with 7 percent 40 years ago.

"Clothing has gone from a long-term investment purchase to a disposable good," says Cline. "Fast fashion has a lot of parallels to fast food. It's a similar psychology to the dollar menu at McDonald's: You go in all the time for a quick, cheap fix."

At the same time, the shift in manufacturing to developing countries has provided jobs to millions of poor people in third world nations. Many of those factory workers toil in "sweatshops" under unsafe or difficult conditions and for little

Fast fashion is like fast food. You go in all the time for a quick, cheap fix.

pay, at least by Western standards. On the other hand, factory jobs provide many people—often rural women living in terrible poverty—with their first paychecks; in China, jobs like this have enabled more than 200 million people to move into the middle class in the last decade.

China is the world's biggest ready-to-wear clothing producer, but it has lost business over the past few years as its workers' paychecks have grown. The average clothing factory worker in China now makes \$1.26 an hour; in nearby Cambodia a garment worker makes 52 cents. (In the U.S. the minimum hourly wage is \$7.25.) That savings has led major retailers, including Gap, Benetton, and Sears, to shift some business to Thailand, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

\$2 a Day in Bangladesh

With 5,000 garment factories employing more than 4.5 million people, Bangladesh is now the world's second-leading clothing exporter, after China. Its low wages and loose regulation have helped it attract billions of dollars in orders from Western retailers.

Bangladesh has seen some of the worst practices in the global garment industry. Wages are the lowest in the world, starting at roughly \$37 a month, or about \$2 a day. Factory conditions are often unsafe, and workers are forced to work long hours.

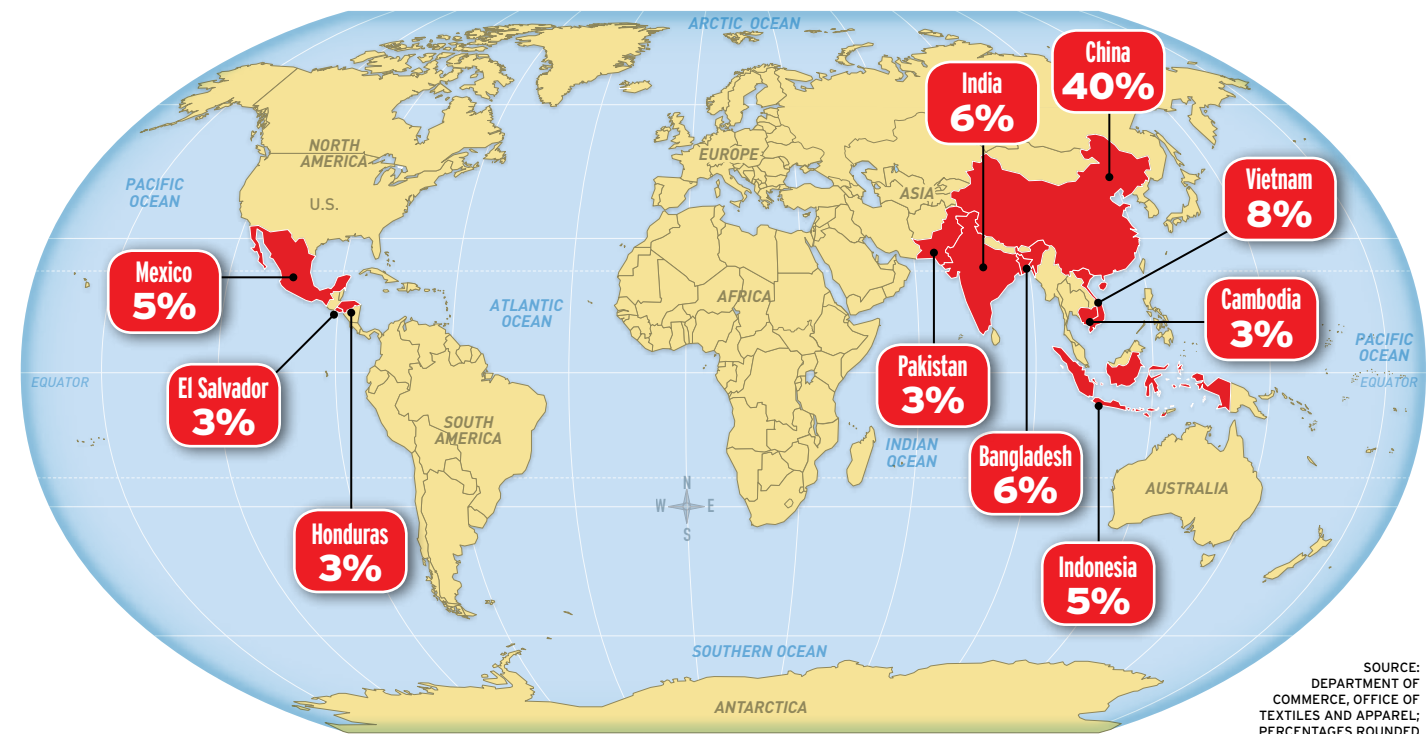
After the factory collapse, Bangladesh's government launched strict inspections and announced plans to raise the minimum wage.

"We're hoping this will be a game-changer in the way that the Triangle shirtwaist factory fire was in the United States," says Sally Greenberg, executive director of the National Consumers League, a consumer and workers rights group, referring to the 1911 fire in a New York City garment factory (see box).

Bangladeshi officials warn, however, against drastic changes that might damage Bangladesh's economy.

Where Your Clothes Come From

These 10 countries make more than 80 percent of the clothing sold in the U.S.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL; PERCENTAGES ROUNDED

"This industry is very important to us," says Mohammad Fazlul Azim, a member of the Bangladesh Parliament and a garment factory owner. "Fourteen million families depend on this."

Fifty major retailers recently signed a pact to spend at least \$60 million over the next five years to monitor safety in Bangladesh's clothing factories. To pressure Bangladesh to reform, President Obama suspended trading privileges that provide lower import tariffs.

Some consumers have begun changing their attitudes about fast fashion too.

"There's real demand for sweat-free products," says Ian Robinson, who studies labor issues at the University of Michigan. Consumers "don't have the information they need, and they do care."

How much more would it cost consumers for clothes to be produced with more worker protections in countries like Bangladesh? Less than 10 cents more per garment, according to one estimate by the National Consumers League.

A California-based yoga clothing company called PrAna is one of the first

American apparel firms to be fair-trade certified, meaning its factories have been inspected for safety and workers' pay and found to be fair. And the Sustainable Apparel Coalition—which includes big names like Walmart, Gap, and Target—has been testing a certification system that started with environmental goals but will soon include social and labor measurements.

An Ethical Alternative?

Cline is optimistic about the potential for change. "The era of the \$4.99 dress is not going to last forever," she says. "Things are going to change not only because consumers want an ethical alternative but also for economic reasons: The cost of labor in China is going up. Oil is more expensive, so transportation costs are higher."

Grace Donnelly, 20, a sophomore at John Carroll University in Ohio, says she used to frequent stores like Forever 21



Protesters outside an H&M store in Berlin, after the Bangladesh factory collapse in April

and Gap. But as she became more aware of working conditions in the factories that supply fast fashion stores, she's turned more to fair-trade clothes.

"It's difficult on a college budget," Donnelly says. But "at least you know the clothes you're buying were made sustainably and the people that made your clothes were paid fairly." •

With reporting by Jim Yardley, Stephanie Clifford, and Steven Greenhouse of The New York Times, and by Tiffany Lew.

The March on Washington

Fifty years ago, more than 250,000 people marched on Washington, D.C., demanding an end to racial segregation

BY REBECCA ZISSOU

Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his now-famous 'I Have a Dream' speech.



Around 10 p.m. on Aug. 18, 1963, three black teens left their hometown of Gadsden, Alabama, walking north along U.S. Highway 11. With their parents' reluctant support, Robert Avery, 15, James Foster Smith, 16, and Frank Thomas, 17, set out on a 684-mile trip to the nation's capital. The Carver High School students were on their way to what would become the largest civil rights march in American history.

Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. and

WATCH A VIDEO **M.L.K.:**
Daring to Dream
WWW.UPFRONTMAGAZINE.COM

other black leaders, the teens had been involved in civil rights protests throughout the summer, boycotting local businesses that discriminated against blacks and staging sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. So when they heard about plans for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom—better known today as the March on Washington—they knew they had to be there to demand greater rights for African-Americans.

"We couldn't afford to . . . ride the bus," says Avery, now 65. "So we hitchhiked."

Despite the dangers young blacks faced hitchhiking through the South at the height of the civil rights movement, Avery says the people who picked them

up over the next three days—mostly whites—were friendly and supportive. "They understood what we were doing and why we were doing it," he says.

The trio arrived in Washington, D.C., a week before the march and helped set up. They worked alongside thousands of other activists—many arriving on buses and trains chartered by civil rights groups, including the N.A.A.C.P. (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). In the sweltering heat, they made signs reading, "We march for jobs for all now!" and "We demand equal rights!" The following week, on August 28, hundreds of thousands of people crammed the National Mall to

call for equal rights and to hear King's now-famous "I Have a Dream" speech—a milestone of the civil rights movement.

Growing up in Alabama, the boys had encountered segregation on a daily basis. Avery remembers seeing separate water fountains for blacks and whites around Gadsden and not being allowed to eat at some restaurants. Though the Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that segregated public schools were unconstitutional (see *Timeline*, pp. 26-27), segregation remained a way of life in parts of the U.S., especially in the South, where Jim Crow laws and customs prevailed. Public places like movie theaters, parks, and hospitals remained segregated, and

many businesses refused to serve blacks.

One of the hubs of the civil rights movement was Birmingham, Alabama—an hour from where Avery and his friends grew up. Under the leadership of King—then a young, charismatic Baptist minister—thousands participated in nonviolent protests, boycotts, and voter-registration drives. But things became violent in May 1963, when police officers turned dogs and high-pressure water hoses on peaceful protesters in Kelly Ingram Park. Officers arrested thousands of black youths—some as young as 4 years old. Graphic images of the encounter shocked the nation, helping increase public support for civil rights.

Soon after, King joined A. Philip Randolph, who founded the first black labor union, and other civil rights leaders in planning the March on Washington. They wanted to get the federal government to enact civil rights legislation and to call attention to the economic hardships facing African-Americans. In 1963, the unemployment rate for blacks was nearly twice that of whites, and high-paying jobs were not available to black people.

J.F.K. & Civil Rights

Though President John F. Kennedy supported the idea of greater equality, little progress was made in the first two years of his presidency. But on June 11,

AP/GETTY IMAGES



1947
Baseball
Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball.

1948
The Military
President Harry S. Truman issues an executive order to desegregate the U.S. armed forces.



1954
Public Schools
The Supreme Court declares segregated public schools unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*, overturning the "separate but equal" standard established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896).

1955
Bus Boycott
Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. The incident sparks a boycott of city buses.



1957
Little Rock Nine
Nine black students attempt to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, to test the *Brown* ruling. They are turned away by an angry mob. Federal troops are sent to escort the students inside.



1960
Greensboro Four
Black college students stage a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. Six months later, the store begins serving blacks.



1963
March on Washington

June 1964
Freedom Summer
Hundreds of young volunteers register black voters across Mississippi. Many experience harassment and brutality; some are murdered.



July 1964
Civil Rights Act
With Martin Luther King looking on, President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlaws segregation in employment, public education, and public facilities.

1965
The Voting Rights Act
Congress outlaws literacy tests, poll taxes, and other obstacles to black voter registration.

spurred in part by TV images from Birmingham, Kennedy announced plans for a comprehensive civil rights bill. He addressed the nation live from the Oval Office, urging Congress "to enact legislation giving all Americans the right to be served in . . . hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores, and similar establishments."

As Kennedy's bill was fiercely debated in Congress, Randolph met with Kennedy several times in the weeks leading up to the demonstration. Though the president feared the protest would become violent and weaken support for his civil rights bill, he reluctantly agreed to support it.

The morning of the march, more than 250,000 people poured into the nation's capital to assemble near the Washington Monument. Soon the crowd began the one-mile walk to the Lincoln Memorial, holding hands and singing protest

songs. Many carried signs, including those Avery and his friends had made.

'I Have a Dream'

TV networks broadcast the events live. Randolph spoke first, followed by Eugene Carson Blake, a prominent white minister, and John Lewis, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Now a congressman from Georgia, Lewis, at 23, was the youngest person on the program. In his speech, he criticized the Kennedy administration for not doing enough to end segregation and encouraged people to take part in the fight for equality.

King's words electrified the crowd and millions who watched at home.

"I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation," he said. "Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes."

The final speaker was King. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he outlined his vision for America.

"I have a dream," he said, "that one day this nation will rise up [and] live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

King's words electrified the crowd as well as the millions who watched from home. Today, King's 16-minute "I Have a Dream" speech is considered one of the most powerful in American history.

According to Julian Bond, a long-time civil rights leader and a professor at American University in Washington, D.C., King helped Americans grasp the injustices of segregation.

"It was a great speech," says Bond, who was 23 when he attended the march. "King explained the justice of the movement's demands . . . in marvelous language that anyone could understand."

Avery remembers being inspired by King's words. "Even though he was talking to a crowd, he made it sound like he was talking to you," he says.

As the march ended, the crowd sang "We Shall Overcome," the unofficial anthem of the civil rights movement.

The march was "a moment of achievement," says Bond. "A demonstration that black Americans—and their white supporters—were serious in their demands for freedom and . . . were willing to sacrifice for it."

President Kennedy was assassinated three months after the march. A few months later his successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, barring segregation in education, employment, and public facilities, like restaurants, trains, and buses. Later that year, King, then 35, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest person ever to receive the honor. The following summer, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, outlawing literacy tests, poll taxes, and other obstacles to black voting.

From King to Obama

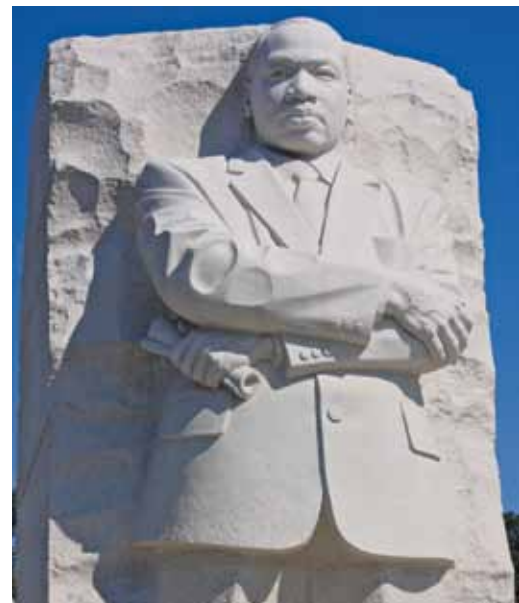
King remained one of the most active civil rights leaders in America. But on April 4, 1968, he was fatally shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. King's death unleashed a wave of sadness and anger, as

the world mourned the loss of a dynamic leader. In 2011, a monument in King's honor was unveiled on the National Mall, where he delivered his famous speech.

Fifty years after "I Have a Dream," black Americans have made significant strides. But challenges remain. Today, the unemployment rate for blacks (13.5 percent) is double that of whites (6.7 percent), about the same ratio as in 1963. At the same time, the percentage of blacks who own their own home has increased to 45 percent, from 31 percent 50 years ago; and there are five times as many black college graduates today as in 1963, according to the National Urban League.

Avery, now a city council member in Gadsden, Alabama, says he is often reminded of how far the nation has come since he first set foot on the National Mall in 1963. He returned to Washington in 2009 to witness an event many wouldn't have thought possible when he was growing up: the inauguration of the nation's first black president, Barack Obama. For Avery, the milestone reminded him of the day he stood among the crowd at the

March on Washington when he was 15. "To see all of the people who were there—both black and white, young and old—coming together for a common cause," says Avery, "it made you feel really good." •



A memorial to King opened on the National Mall in August 2011.

TOP ROW FROM LEFT: AP PHOTO; BETTMANN/CORBIS; BETTMANN/CORBIS; STEVE SCHAPIRO/CORBIS; CECIL STOUTON/ONYX; LYNDON B. JOHNSON LIBRARY; HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; MARCH ON WASHINGTON BUTTON; EVAN GOLUB/DEMOTIX/DEMOTIX/CORBIS (STATUE)

The High Price of Cheap Fashion

p. 12

OPEN BOOK

PASSAGE-BASED READING: Reread the first two sections of the article: the introduction and the section under the heading “Cheaper Labor, Lower Prices.” Then answer the following questions.

- ❶ In the introduction, the author presents Belinda Aye as an example of
- a an observer of the garment industry who is pushing for better working conditions.
 - b a garment laborer who risks her life in a Bangladeshi sweatshop.
 - c a young entrepreneur who has launched a line of fair-trade apparel.
 - d a clothing consumer for whom price and style are the main considerations.
 - e a garment-industry executive defending the use of cheap labor.
- ❷ In paragraph 5 of the introduction, you can infer that the author uses the expression “a world away” to convey
- a geographical distance.
 - b vastly different ways of life.
 - c a shift in generations.
 - d both a & b
 - e both a & c

- ❸ According to one expert interviewed in the article, the current clothing industry might be compared to
- a slash-and-burn agriculture.
 - b the fast-food industry.
 - c the garment industry of the 1980s.
 - d the world of fine art.
 - e a favorable real estate market.
- ❹ The word *dubbed* in paragraph 8 of the introduction most nearly means
- a honored.
 - b tapped lightly.
 - c nicknamed.
 - d acclaimed.
 - e copied.

ESSAY

What responsibilities, if any, do you think American clothing companies have to the workers who manufacture their garments in another country? Support your arguments with evidence from the text.

1963: The March on Washington

p. 16

OPEN BOOK

PASSAGE-BASED READING: Reread the article. Then answer the following questions.

❶ The article can best be described as an example of

- a political commentary.
- b personal narrative.
- c expository writing.
- d persuasive writing.
- e a character sketch.

❷ You can infer that the word *dangers* in paragraph 4 of the introduction probably refers to

- a serious auto accidents on congested interstate highways.
- b running out of water and food for the long journey.
- c escalating crime rates in the North.
- d potential violence by whites who were hostile to African-Americans.
- e none of the above

❸ Which event described in the article happened first?

- a President Kennedy called for a civil rights bill.
- b The Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.
- c People gathered for the March on Washington.
- d A peaceful protest at Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham, Alabama, turned violent.
- e Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

❹ Based on the article, the March on Washington could best be described as

- a pivotal.
- b haphazard.
- c controversial.
- d ephemeral.
- e violent.

ESSAY

What effect do you think the March on Washington had on the civil rights movement?