



Name:



Date:

The 1968 Sanitation Workers' Strike that Drew MLK Guided Practice ([Source](#))

Instructions: Read the website resource and complete the video guided practice.

- 1) On February 12, 1968, 1,300 Black _____ workers in Memphis began a strike to demand better working conditions and higher pay.
- 2) The _____ drew Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis, Tennessee, which was the setting for his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech and [his assassination](#).
- 3) The city of Memphis expected _____ collectors to work long hours for meager wages and without overtime pay.
- 4) A couple of weeks before the strike, workers’ dissatisfaction reached new heights when two men, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were _____ while on the job.
- 5) When the city then refused to provide _____ to the deceased workers’ families, workers walked off the job in disgust.
- 6) According to [the King Institute at Stanford](#), the strike kicked off successfully with a several-hundred-person _____, which led the city council to acknowledge the sanitation workers’ union and support raises.



- 7) The mayor, however, refused these concessions, and, on February 23, 1968, police confronted peaceful protesters with _____.
- 8) Memphis' Black leaders formed a _____ to support the strike and invited Dr. King to come and lend his voice to the struggle.
- 9) This cause was well _____ to King's priorities at the time.
- 10) Dr. King gave a speech to a 25,000-person crowd in _____ on March 18, 1968.
- 11) On March 28, 1968, King returned to Memphis to lead a _____ in support of the strike.
- 12) The protest turned ugly when an outside group became _____.
- 13) In response, protesters marched wearing "I Am A _____" sandwich boards, demanding that they be treated with dignity.
- 14) On April 3, King returned to Memphis and delivered his _____ speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."
- 15) On April 4, _____, King was fatally shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.
- 16) In Memphis, the sanitation workers' struggle continued, with the added support of King's _____, Coretta Scott King.



17) A few days after King's assassination, Mrs. _____ and other leaders returned to Memphis' streets to support the workers.

18) On April 16, 1968, the city agreed to grant _____ to African American employees and recognize the workers' union.