**ANSWERS Internet Research Worksheet**

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| Topic under investigation: | US Freedom Rides |

1. Who was involved?

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| **Individual's or group's name:** | **Short description of this person or group:** |
| Freedom Riders | A group of black and white civil rights activists who rode buses throughout the American South to challenge segregation laws in 1961. |
| Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) | Civil rights organization that played a key role in organizing the Freedom Rides. |
| Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) | Civil rights organization that participated in the Freedom Rides. |
| Robert Kennedy | US Attorney General who negotiated the release of the Freedom Riders and arranged for police protection. |
| John Lewis | A Freedom Rider who later became a US Congressman and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011. |

1. What were the main events and when did they occur?

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| **Date:** | **Title of event:** | **Short description of this event:** |
| May 4, 1961 | Start of Freedom Rides | Thirteen protestors began the Freedom Rides in Washington D.C. |
| May 12, 1961 | Attack at Rock Hill | Three riders were attacked at a Greyhound bus terminal in South Carolina. |
| May 14, 1961 | Anniston Attack | The bus was attacked and set on fire in Anniston, Alabama. |
| May 17, 1961 | Birmingham Violence | Riders were met by an angry mob and beaten in Birmingham, Alabama. |
| May 24, 1961 | Arrival in Jackson | Freedom Riders arrived in Jackson, Mississippi, and were arrested. |
| May 29, 1961 | Presidential Announcement | President announced a ban on segregation in all bus facilities. |
| Nov 1, 1961 | End of Freedom Rides | The new ban took effect, bringing the Freedom Rides to an end. |

1. Where were the important locations?

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| **Name of city, country or location:** | **Short description of this location:** |
| Washington, D.C., USA | Starting point of the Freedom Rides. |
| Rock Hill, South Carolina, USA | Location of the first attack on the Freedom Riders. |
| Anniston, Alabama, USA | Site of the bus attack and firebombing. |
| Birmingham, Alabama, USA | Location of mob violence against the Freedom Riders. |
| Montgomery, Alabama, USA | City where the Freedom Riders were attacked and beaten again. |
| Jackson, Mississippi, USA | Final destination of the Freedom Rides, where riders were arrested. |

1. What new words or phrases do you need to understand?

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| **Word or phrase:** | **Short description of this word or phrase:** |
| Segregation | The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment. |
| Desegregation | The process of ending the separation of different racial groups. |
| Civil Rights Movement | A struggle by African Americans in the mid-20th century to achieve civil rights equal to those of whites, including equal opportunity in employment, housing, and education, as well as the right to vote. |
| Morgan v. Virginia | A 1946 Supreme Court decision that ruled segregated interstate bus travel was unconstitutional. |
| Boynton v. Virginia | A 1960 Supreme Court decision that found segregation in interstate bus terminals was unconstitutional. |

**Paragraph Writing**

Based upon what you learnt in your research, answer the following question in paragraph format (Topic Sentence, Explanation, Evidence, Concluding Sentence):

*How does the event of the Freedom Rides illustrate how Americans were divided about the issues of segregation and integration in the 19560s?*

The event of the Freedom Rides vividly illustrates the deep divisions among Americans regarding the issues of segregation and integration during the 1960s. On one side, the Freedom Riders, a group of black and white civil rights activists, were determined to challenge and expose the unenforced laws against segregation in interstate travel. They were met with violent resistance, hatred, and indifference from those who were committed to maintaining the segregated status quo, including angry mobs, local authorities, and even some government officials. The contrasting reactions to the Freedom Rides, ranging from violent opposition to sympathetic support, highlight the broader societal struggle over racial equality and integration during this turbulent period in American history. The Freedom Rides became a microcosm of the national debate, reflecting the profound disagreements and tensions that characterized the Civil Rights Movement and the broader push for social change.