

READING PI:

**Grades
4 & 5**

CHANGE YOUR WORLD

The background of the cover features a photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building's iconic dome and neoclassical architecture are visible. In the foreground, there is a large crowd of people holding numerous American flags, which are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of a large-scale event or rally. The overall color palette is warm, with the red, white, and blue of the flags contrasting against the light-colored stone of the Capitol.

Nonfiction Comprehension Program

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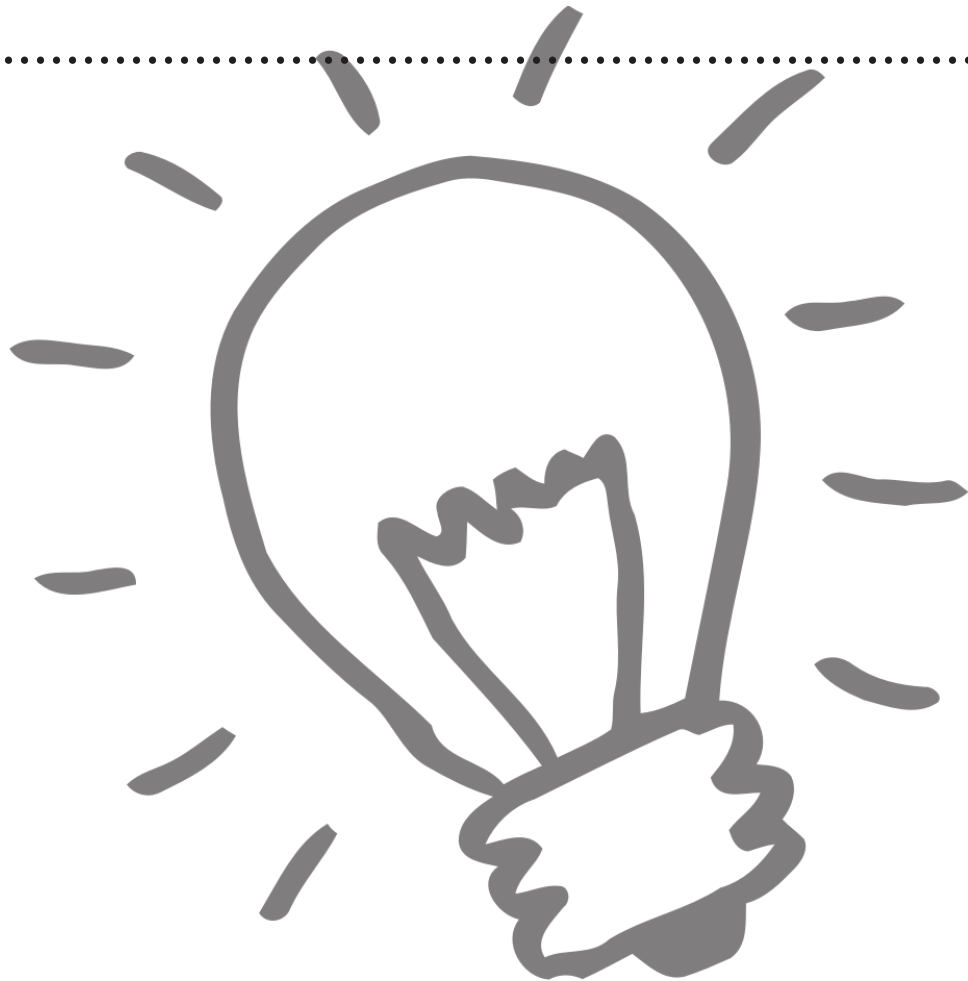
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Peaceful Protests

People **protest** when they want change. People protest sometimes when they want more freedom. They sometimes protest when they want to change a law. They also protest when they don't like their ruler. A protest is how you say you don't like the way things are. People who protest feel strongly that something needs to be done to make things better.

Peaceful protests can change the way things are without hurting people. During a peaceful protest, people make speeches and lead **marches**. These activities bring attention to the problem.

Civil Rights Movement (1954 – 1968)

The Civil Rights Movement is an example of a time when people used protests to change things. Before the Civil Rights Movement, African Americans did not have the same freedom and civil rights as other Americans. They were **segregated** from white people because of the color of their skin. They could not vote. They could not go to good schools. They could not get good jobs. It was unfair!

African Americans wanted to be treated fairly. So, in the 1950s and 1960s civil rights leaders, like Martin Luther King Jr., organized protests to bring attention to the problems they saw. They made speeches and led marches. Many people joined the civil rights leaders to protest for African Americans' civil rights.

Some of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement were not famous. They were students just like you. African American and White college students organized sit-in protests as part of the Civil Rights Movement. They would sit peacefully at Whites-only lunch counters. During that time, the law said that only White people could sit there. Because the students were not all White, the police came and took the students to jail. The students risked going to jail to change **unjust** laws.

After years of protests, the United States passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. This law gave African Americans the same rights as all other Americans. It said that every American should be treated the same. The Civil Rights Act was an important law that changed the lives of many people. However, people are still protesting today to fight for **equality**.

WAYS TO PROTEST: THEN & NOW

MARCH

In 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. led a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. In 2017, millions of women marched across America and the globe.



SIT-IN

In 1960, groups of African American and white young people sat at "whites only" lunch counters. In 2017, individuals with disabilities sat in the hallways of congress.



BOYCOTT

In 1956, many people in Montgomery, Alabama stopped riding the bus. In 2017, immigrants across the country didn't go to work for the day.

