

Reading Ex. > World Events

Read about five (5) important events that changed history. Complete the exercises below.

1929

1 THE WALL STREET CRASH AND THE JARROW MARCH

On Thursday 24th October 1929, at the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street, the unthinkable happened. In one day, 13 million shares changed hands as prices collapsed and the dream of wealth was transformed into the nightmare of poverty. The Wall Street Crash led to a period of unemployment, homelessness and hunger all over the world. In the next few years, millions of ordinary people's lives were destroyed.

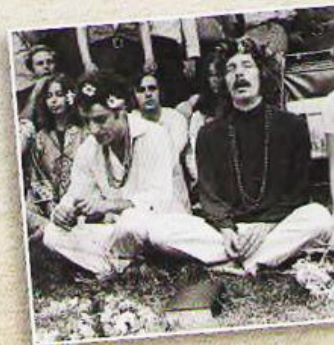
Over 5,000 km away, in the ship-building town of Jarrow in the north east of England, unemployment among skilled working men reached 65 percent as a result of the 'Great Depression' that followed the Wall Street Crash. In October 1936, 207 men from Jarrow set out on foot, to march the 480 km to London as a 'protest against starvation'. The Jarrow marchers were cheered and given food in every town they passed through, but when they reached parliament, nothing was done for them. The men were given £1 each for their train fare home.



1967

2 THE SUMMER OF LOVE

During the 1960s, rebellion against the establishment grew in many parts of the world, from the United States to Czechoslovakia. Young people began to adopt an alternative lifestyle characterised by long hair and colourful clothes, and to protest against the actions of their governments, such as the Vietnam War. In 1967, thousands of young people gathered in the Haight-Ashbury neighbourhood of San Francisco to promote peace, happiness and love in what became known as the 'Summer of Love'. Music festivals, poetry readings, speeches and theatre events celebrated 'flower power'. However, by October 1967, events had taken an unpleasant turn as crime and drug abuse increasingly took over. The organisers held a 'funeral' and burnt a coffin labelled 'Summer of Love'.



1989

3 THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

In autumn 1989, following reforms in the former Soviet Union, opposition to communist rule in the countries of Eastern Europe began to grow and their governments began to open their borders. Under overwhelming pressure, on 9th November, the East German government announced that the Berlin Wall, which divided the city, would be opened and that East Berliners would be free to visit the West. Within hours, thousands of people poured through the gates in the wall, where they were greeted with flowers and champagne by West Berliners. People from both sides began to knock down the wall with hammers and by 1990, East and West Germany were reunified.



2008

4 OBAMA'S ELECTION NIGHT

On 5th November 2008, 47-year-old Senator Barack Obama shattered 200 years of US history and swept to victory to become the first black president of the United States. A crowd of a quarter of a million gathered in Grant Park, Chicago, to celebrate. Over a million people crammed the streets of the city and many millions more celebrated around the US and across the world. Obama, who had started his presidential campaign as an outsider, had won millions of white votes as well as black ones with his famous slogan, 'Yes we can'. His election was seen by many as the culmination of a campaign for black rights that had begun with Martin Luther King in the early 1960s.



Text taken from Cunningham S., Moor P., & Bygrave J. (2013) Cutting Edge – Upper-intermediate. Student's book. 3rd Ed. Pearson. UK.

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A. Use the information in the texts to match the events (A-E) with the ideas (1-12) below. Some events match more than one idea.

A. *The Wall Street Crash*

C. *The Summer of Love*

E. *Obama's Election Night*

B. *The Jarrow March*

D. *The Fall of the Berlin Wall*

1. the cold shoulder _____
2. a change in politics _____
3. against the system _____
4. long journey _____
5. economic crisis _____
6. freedom _____

7. violence and narcotics _____
8. one nation again _____
9. against hunger _____
10. unimaginable reality _____
11. warm welcome _____
12. no racial distinctions _____

B. Decide if the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not mentioned (NM).

	T	F	NM
1. The young played a crucial role in the sixties against the authorities.			
2. Barack Obama was an influential figure since the beginning of his campaign.			
3. The <i>Jarrow March</i> was followed by the unthinkable crisis of Wall Street.			
4. The fall of the Berlin Wall gathered East and West Berliners.			
5. Several people died in <i>The Summer of Love</i> due to the crimes and drug abuse.			
6. All these events took place in the twentieth century.			
7. B. Obama is one of the youngest presidents in the US history.			
8. In 1936 protestors got absolutely nothing after exposing their dissatisfaction.			
9. The former Soviet Union could not stand the pressure from west countries.			
10. The collapse of Wall Street had repercussions all over the world.			

C. What do the following numbers refer to in the events described on the previous page?

- a. 1 _____
- b. 9 _____
- c. 47 _____
- d. 65 _____
- e. 200 _____
- f. 207 _____
- g. 5000 _____



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