John F. Kennedy was the thirty-fifth American president. He has been called one of America’s most loved presidents, and he was also the country’s youngest at the time to be elected. He was forty-three years old when he was elected.

President Kennedy was born in 1917, in Massachusetts. His family was wealthy, and he attended private schools before going to Harvard University. He graduated from Harvard in 1940.

This was during the start of World War II. Kennedy did what many people were doing at the time. He joined the military by signing up with the Navy. Kennedy was sent to the Pacific where he worked on a torpedo ship. In 1943 his ship was sunk. He risked his life to help bring all his crewmates to safety.

When Kennedy returned home from war, he made the decision to go into politics. He ran for Congress and won the seat in 1946. He won again in 1948 and 1950. His next goal was to join the United States Senate. He won that seat in 1952.

During this time, Mr. Kennedy met a woman named Jaqueline. They were married in 1953, and they had two children.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy ran for and won the Presidency of the United States. He began his term in 1961.

The country loved President Kennedy for his youth and excitement. He had big
goals for America, including ending the tensions left over from the Korean conflict and the Cold War. He also felt compassion for the Civil Rights movement, which was becoming a huge issue within the country.

The president’s biggest challenges included tensions with the Soviet Union and Cuba. A failed mission to overtake the communist government in Cuba was a major disappointment for him.

However, he was able to calm the waters with the Soviet Union. Another of his great victories was the way in which he was able to support the mission of the Civil Rights movement.

He called civil rights a moral cause, and he said the country should end discrimination. This earned him respect in all the country. He hoped to make equal access to public areas, end segregation in schools, and further the right to vote.

However, President Kennedy would not live long enough to see many of his goals fulfilled. On November 22, 1963, he was in Dallas, Texas with his wife and his Vice President. They were riding in a car when the president was shot twice. The shots were fatal, and he died that same day.

President Kennedy left a legacy in America by his many noble actions throughout his life. For his heroic actions during World War II he received the Navy and Marine Corps medal for courage. He also received a Purple Heart.

He wrote a book titled Profiles In Courage, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1957. He spoke one of the most-remembered quotes in history during his inaugural speech in 1961. He said, “Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country”.

Name: ________________________
John F. Kennedy

1) Which answer best encapsulates the main idea of the passage?
   a. The sad truth that Kennedy didn't live long enough to see many of his goals fulfilled.
   b. How being born in a wealthy family made it easy for him to become president.
   c. How President Kennedy, taking advantage of his youth and excitement, set great goals for America and accomplished these with tremendous determination.
   d. How Kennedy was able to calm the waters with the Soviet Union.

2) What do you think made John Kennedy America's most loved President?

3) Cite instances from the text to support the qualities a to c with reference to Kennedy:
   a. Supporting a moral cause:
   b. Acclaimed writing:
John F. Kennedy

c. Distinguished education:


4) What does the word “discrimination” mean? Use it in a sentence of your own.


5) Write a brief explanatory note on the famous words of Kennedy “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”
John F. Kennedy

1) Which answer best encapsulates the main idea of the passage?
   a. The sad truth that Kennedy didn't live long enough to see many of his goals fulfilled.
   b. How being born in a wealthy family made it easy for him to become president.
   c. How President Kennedy, taking advantage of his youth and excitement, set great goals for America and accomplished these with tremendous determination.
   d. How Kennedy was able to calm the waters with the Soviet Union.

2) What do you think made John Kennedy America's most loved President?
   Kennedy was loved for his youth and excitement. In addition to this, he hoped to make equal access to public areas, end segregation in schools, and further the right to vote.
   a. Supporting a moral cause:
      Kennedy thought civil rights movement was a moral cause and worked hard to achieve equal rights for all.
   b. Acclaimed writing:
      Kennedy wrote “Profiles In Courage”, which won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1957.

3) Cite instances from the text to support the qualities a to c with reference to Kennedy:
   a. Supporting a moral cause:
      Kennedy thought civil rights movement was a moral cause and worked hard to achieve equal rights for all.
   b. Acclaimed writing:
      Kennedy wrote “Profiles In Courage”, which won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1957.
John F. Kennedy

c. Distinguished education:

He attended private schools before graduating from Harvard in 1940.

4) What does the word “discrimination” mean? Use it in a sentence of your own.

It is the practice of treating one person or group of people less fairly.

Governments across the world have made discrimination against people based on their color, illegal.

5) Write a brief explanatory note on the famous words of Kennedy “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

Answers may vary.