

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

The Zoot Suit Riots

In June of 1943, East Los Angeles was overtaken by a series of brawls. These vicious fights took place between groups of sailors and young Latino males. Today, the reason for the brawls might seem strange: the sailors didn't like the way the young Latino males were dressed. Now known as the Zoot Suit Riots, the brawls dumbfounded people across the country.

During World War II, many military bases were located around Los Angeles. Soldiers and sailors often went there to unwind. Many of these sailors were white men from parts of the country where they did not often encounter other racial groups. At the same time, a new type of youth culture was cropping up in Los Angeles. The city was filled with young Latino men and women who liked to dance to jazz music. The men wore colorful, broad-shouldered suits known as "zoot suits." For these men, the gaudy zoot suits were a way of showing that they weren't going to be docile, forgotten members of society.

Although there was always tension between the zoot-suiters and the sailors, the real trouble started the night of May 30, when a group of military men walked past a group of zoot-suiters in downtown Los Angeles. One sailor, Joe Dacy Coleman, decided to grab the arm of one of the zoot-suiters. This decision proved to be seriously flawed. The zoot-suiters knocked Coleman unconscious and attacked the other sailors with rocks, bottles, and fists.

When the sailors returned to the naval armory, they told their friends about the fight. At first, the sailors were merely peevish about the situation. As the days went on, however, their anger increased. On June 3, they took their anger to the streets. About 50 sailors descended on the Carmen Theater in downtown Los Angeles, a movie theater with a mostly Latino clientele. The sailors clubbed the young men and boys in the audience and stripped them of their zoot suits.

Disturbingly, the attack met with acclaim from the local press, who believed that many of the zoot-suiters were criminals. Over the next few nights, the riots continued. Finally, on June 7, U.S. Navy and Army commanders forbade all sailors and soldiers from going to the city of Los Angeles, putting an end to the fighting. In addition, the Los Angeles City Council banned the wearing of zoot suits...a law that has not been repealed to this day.

1. Based on information in the passage, why did the sailors dislike the zoot-suiters?

- (A) The zoot-suiters often mocked the sailors.
- (B) The zoot-suiters played their music too loudly.
- (C) The sailors weren't used to people from other races.
- (D) The sailors thought the zoot-suiters did not support the war.

2. Why did the zoot-suiters wear such colorful suits?

- (A) To make the soldiers in uniform feel foolish
- (B) To show that they would not be ignored
- (C) So they could see each other in dark dance clubs
- (D) The zoot suits were a traditional Latino outfit.

3. Read this sentence from the passage:

"Although there was always tension between the zoot-suiters and the sailors, the real trouble started the night of May 30." Based on this sentence, you can tell that

- (A) The sailors and zoot-suiters were friends before May 30.
- (B) The sailors and zoot-suiters first met on the night of May 30.
- (C) The sailors and zoot-suiters did not have any trouble until May 30.
- (D) The sailors and zoot-suiters had been in fights or had arguments before May 30.

4. Read this sentence from the passage:

"On June 3, they took their anger to the streets."

The author means that the sailors

- (A) Showed their anger in public
- (B) Destroyed public property
- (C) Protested the riots
- (D) Forgot about their anger

5. How long did the Zoot Suit Riots last?

- (A) About a day
- (B) About a week
- (C) A few weeks
- (D) About a month

4E Pick the Winner

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. Deanna ran a respectable campaign for class president, but her opponent ran a(n) **(vicious OR acrid)** one full of attacks and dirty tricks.

2. _____
3. A good politician should be able to talk about her accomplishments without sounding like a **(braggart OR retort)**.

4. _____
5. The debate team lost this round because their argument was filled with **(acclaimed OR flawed)** logic.

6. _____
7. Raul has been arguing with me all morning about the dumbest things; I wonder why he's so **(dumbfounded OR peevish)**.

8. _____
9. When I first got my pet ferret he was pretty wild, but he's become much more **(docile OR gaudy)** in his old age.

10. _____

4F Draw the Relationships

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1	defect	acclaim	potential	flaw
	kind			promise
		vicious	disapproval	
2	peevish	view	docile	pleasant
	subtle			gaudy
		vista	wild	