

Name _____



Powerful Words In Context

Directions: Read the background passage carefully. Then, review the four quotations that follow. Match each quotation with the **historical event or condition** that influenced it by writing the letters in the blanks. Answer the questions that follow.

Voices in Context

Throughout history, leaders, writers, and activists have responded to the challenges of their time with powerful words. Some spoke during revolutions, calling for independence and self-rule. Others raised their voices against injustice, fighting for civil rights and equality. Still others addressed the struggles of war or the need for perseverance during difficult times. By studying these quotations in context, we can understand not only what was said but also **why** it was said.

Quotations

_____ 1. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

_____ 2. "Give me liberty, or give me death!" – Patrick Henry

_____ 3. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed." – Martin Luther King Jr.

_____ 4. "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds... we shall never surrender." – Winston Churchill

Possible Contexts

A. Delivered in 1775, urging colonists to resist British rule and move toward independence.

B. Spoken in 1963, calling for racial equality and justice during the Civil Rights Movement.

C. Said in 1940, rallying the British people to endure Nazi attacks during World War II.

D. Declared in 1933, reassuring Americans during the Great Depression.

1. Explain why understanding the time and situation is important for interpreting each quote.
2. Which of these quotes do you think would still inspire people today? Why?