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W.E.B. DU BOIS

Read the biography of W.E.B. Du Bois and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.



W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) was a trailblazing African American scholar, writer, and activist who dedicated his life to the pursuit of civil rights and racial equality. He was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, to a family that valued education and believed in hard work. Excelling in his studies from an early age, Du Bois was encouraged by his teachers to push boundaries and achieve greatness.

In 1895, Du Bois became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University, an achievement that cemented his place as a pioneer in higher education. His work focused on the systemic injustices faced by African Americans, particularly in the post-Reconstruction era. He believed education and knowledge were essential tools for dismantling racism and fostering social progress.

Du Bois was a key founder of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1909, where he worked tirelessly to fight segregation and promote equality through activism and education. Earlier, in 1905, he co-founded the Niagara Movement, which opposed the accommodationist policies of Booker T. Washington and advocated for civil rights through direct action. Through his writing, including his seminal book *The Souls of Black Folk*, and his role as editor of *The Crisis*, Du Bois became a powerful voice for justice and progress.

Later in life, Du Bois turned his attention to Pan-Africanism, advocating for unity among people of African descent worldwide. In 1961, he moved to Ghana, where he spent his final years working on the *Encyclopedia Africana* and supporting African independence movements. He passed away in 1963, just one day before the historic March on Washington.

W.E.B. Du Bois remains a towering figure in history, whose life's work underscores the importance of education, activism, and the relentless pursuit of justice. His legacy continues to inspire movements for equality and freedom worldwide.

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- 1 What significant educational milestone did W.E.B. Du Bois achieve in 1895, and why was it groundbreaking?

- 2 What was the Niagara Movement, and how did it differ from the views of Booker T. Washington?

- 3 Why did W.E.B. Du Bois move to Ghana in 1961, and what project did he work on there?
