Name: _____ Date: _____

LINCOLN ALEXANDER



Read the biography of Lincoln Alexander and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Lincoln Alexander was a trailblazer and an advocate for equality, who played a significant role in shaping Canada's history. Born on January 21, 1922, in Toronto, Ontario, he grew up during a time of widespread racism, which created significant barriers for Black Canadians. Despite these challenges, Alexander's determination and leadership set him apart, making him a role model for generations.

During World War II, Alexander joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving as a wireless operator and one of the few Black servicemen at the time. After the war, he pursued higher education, graduating with a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in 1953. He became a practicing lawyer and dedicated his career to fighting for fairness and opportunity for all. In 1968, Alexander made history as the first Black Member of Parliament in Canada, representing Hamilton West. In Parliament, he advocated for social justice and worked on legislation that supported marginalized communities. Later, in 1985, he broke another barrier by becoming the first Black Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, a position in which he championed education, youth empowerment, and equality.

Throughout his life, Alexander remained passionate about education, often emphasizing its power to transform lives. His efforts earned him numerous honors, including being named a Companion of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honor. After his passing on October 19, 2012, his contributions continued to be celebrated, including the establishment of Lincoln Alexander Day on January 21, recognized annually in Ontario to honor his remarkable legacy.

Lincoln Alexander's life is a testament to perseverance, leadership, and the belief that breaking barriers can inspire meaningful change.

Use the Image

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 How did Lincoln Alexander break barriers in Canadian politics and government, and why were his achievements significant?

2 In what ways did Lincoln Alexander advocate for education and equality, and why were these causes important to him?

3 What is the significance of January 21 being recognized as Lincoln Alexander Day in Ontario, and how does this honor reflect his legacy?

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