Name: _____ Date: _____

VIOLA DESMOND



Read the biographical passage about Viola Desmond and answer the questions.

Viola Desmond was a brave and inspiring woman who stood up for what was right. She was born on July 6, 1914, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Viola was part of a big, loving family and grew up to be a successful businesswoman. She had her own beauty salon!

One day in 1946, something very important happened. Viola went to a movie theater in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Back then, people were separated based on their skin color. Viola, who was black, refused to sit in the section of the theater where black people were expected to sit. She chose a seat on the main floor, which was unfairly reserved for white people only. When she was told to move, she refused. Because of this, Viola was taken out of the theater and arrested.

What happened to Viola was wrong, and she knew it. She decided to fight against the unfair rules. Her bravery helped start a movement for equal rights in Canada. Even though it was a tough fight, Viola never gave up. She wanted a world where everyone was treated fairly, no matter the color of their skin.

Viola Desmond is remembered as a hero. She showed us that one person can make a big difference. In honor of her bravery, Viola's picture was put on the Canadian ten-dollar bill. This made her the first Canadian woman to be featured on a regularly circulating banknote.

Viola Desmond passed away on February 7, 1965. However, her story continues to inspire people all over the world to stand up for what is right and fair.

Use the Village

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What was Viola Desmond's profession?

2 How did Viola Desmond contribute to the fight for equal rights?

3 What special honor was given to Viola Desmond to remember her bravery?

Use the Village