

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

"Red Shirts" Spill 60 Gallons of Blood to Protest Thailand's Government, 03/19/2010

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june10/thailand_03-19.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been happening in Thailand this month?

2. Who are the Red Shirts? What do they want?

3. Why are the Red Shirts using blood? What does blood symbolize to them?

4. Why are colors important in Thailand?

5. From what places in the country do Red Shirts get a lot of support? What politician do Red Shirts support? How about the Yellow Shirts? Who do they support?

6. How common are coups in Thailand?

7. What kind of government does Thailand have?

8. How many gallons of blood has the group collected? How will they use it for blood?

9. Under what conditions will the current prime minister meet with the Red Shirts? How did they respond to these conditions?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What did you learn from this story? Did any information surprise you?

2. How do you feel about the way that the Red Shirts use blood? What does this symbolize to you? What do you think it does for the image of the red shirts?

3. The Thai military has stepped into governmental affairs 18 times since 1932. Why do you think that might be? How would you feel about the military stepping into U.S. government affairs?

4. Can you imagine protests like this occurring in the United States? Why or why not?

5. In this story, the Red Shirts use blood as a symbolic gesture. Can you think of political groups in the U.S. that use symbols to help convey their message? What are they?

6. Would you ever become involved in a protest? Why or why not? In what instance would you support a protest?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.