

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Rastafarians

Marcus Garvey was a black Jamaican who was an articulate spokesperson for black pride. Garvey encouraged black people to unite and to establish a nation of their own in Africa. In 1916, Garvey left Jamaica to carry his message to America. Upon leaving, he is reported by some people to have said, "Look to Africa for the crowning of a black king, he shall be the redeemer."



Marcus Garvey

In 1930, a man named Ras Tafari was crowned king of Ethiopia. He took the name Haile Selassie, which means "Might of the Trinity." The news of a black African king traveled to Jamaica, where some ministers began to preach that Garvey's prophecy had come true. Neither Garvey nor Selassie were involved in what became known as the Rastafarian movement. When a group of Rastafarians went to Ethiopia to honor , an official of the palace told them to leave. The official did not want to upset the king, who was a devout Christian. This strengthened the Rastafarians' belief because they claimed their god is not supposed to know he is a god. Haile Selassie visited Jamaica in 1966, and witnessed four days of mass hysteria and worship.

Rastafarians claim that white Christian preachers and missionaries perverted the Scriptures to conceal the fact that Adam and Jesus were black. They preach hatred of the white race and the superiority of the black race. The Rastafarians believe they were exiled from Ethiopia to Jamaica because they offended their god. They consider Ethiopia to be heaven on earth. Their rituals include the use of marijuana and the chanting of revivalist hymns. The Rastafarians do not believe in cutting anything on the body. This includes their hair, which they wear in uncut manes of tangled curls called dreadlocks. Reggae singer Bob Marley became the most famous Rastafarian. He died at thirty-six because he would not allow his cancerous toe to be amputated.

The Rastafarian movement began in the slums of Jamaica, but it spread to the middle class. Today about 300,000 people, or about one in twelve Jamaicans, consider themselves Rastafarians.



Answer in a complete sentences

1. Who was Marcus Garvey?

2. What name did Ras Tafari take when he was crowned King of Ethiopia? What does the name mean?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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Fill in the Blanks

Marcus G_____ was a J_____ who encouraged b_____ people to u_____ and to e_____ a n_____ of their own in A_____. When G_____ left J_____ to carry his m_____ to A_____, he is r_____ to have said, "Look to A_____ for the c_____ of a b_____ king, he shall be the r_____."

In 1930, J_____ ministers learned that R_____ Tafari was c_____ king of E_____. They p_____ that G_____’s message had come true, despite the fact that neither G_____ nor Ras T_____ were involved in what became known as the R_____ movement.

R_____ believe that white C_____ preachers and m_____ perverted the Scriptures to *h_____ the fact A_____ and J_____ were b_____. The R_____ believe they were e_____ from E_____ to J_____. The R_____ movement began in the s_____ of J_____, but it s_____ to the m_____ class. More than 300,000 people, or _____% of J_____ consider themselves to be R_____.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*3. Why do you think many Jamaicans are attracted to Rastafarianism?

*4. Why did Haile Selassie draw huge crowds when he visited Jamaica in 1966?

*5. Reggae singer Bob Marley died because he would not allow his cancerous toe to be amputated. Why did he make that decision?

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