

Name _____

Fear Strikes the Capital: The D.C. Sniper Attacks

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The D.C. Sniper attacks had a profound impact on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The random nature of the shootings created widespread fear and uncertainty, causing people to alter their daily routines and avoid public places. Schools were put on lockdown, and residents lived in constant fear. Law enforcement agencies worked together to ensure public safety and conducted thorough investigations to bring the snipers to justice.
2. The cooperation among multiple law enforcement jurisdictions played a crucial role in the capture of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo. It demonstrated the effectiveness of interagency collaboration in addressing large-scale criminal threats. The massive manhunt involved federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the sharing of information and resources. This coordinated effort led to the apprehension of the snipers, ensuring the safety of the community.
3. The motive behind the D.C. Sniper attacks was revealed to be an attempt to extort money from the government. John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo aimed to create chaos and panic in the D.C. area, diverting attention from their sinister plan. Their actions exposed a plot driven by extremist beliefs and a desire to carry out acts of domestic terrorism. The attacks were not only a means of causing harm but also a method to achieve their financial goals.
4. The legal proceedings and sentencing of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo resulted in appropriate consequences for their actions. John Allen Muhammad received the death penalty for his role as the mastermind behind the attacks. Lee Boyd Malvo, who was a juvenile at the time of the crimes, received multiple life sentences without the possibility of parole. These sentences reflect the severity of their crimes and provide justice for the victims and their families.

