

Name _____

Unmasking the Golden State Killer: The Hunt for Joseph James DeAngelo

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Golden State Killer's reign of terror had a profound impact on the communities and victims involved. Fear and uncertainty disrupted people's lives, leaving them in constant distress. Many victims suffered from trauma, and the scars of these crimes persisted for decades.
2. Joseph James DeAngelo's arrest and guilty plea brought closure to the victims and their families, offering them some relief and vindication. It also emphasized the relentless pursuit of justice, sending a clear message that even after many years, perpetrators of heinous crimes can be held accountable.
3. Forensic DNA analysis and genealogy websites played a crucial role in solving the case by providing a way to identify DeAngelo through familial DNA matches. This innovative approach helped investigators overcome the challenges of a long-cold case and ultimately led to his arrest.
4. The sentencing of Joseph James DeAngelo to life in prison without parole was seen by many as a fitting punishment for his heinous crimes. His cooperation with authorities likely spared his life, but the severity of his crimes and the suffering he caused demanded a significant punishment.

