

Name _____

Tragedy in Jonestown: The Jonestown Massacre

Short Answer Key

1. The People's Temple was founded by Jim Jones, who led the group with a message of racial equality and social justice.
2. Living conditions in Jonestown were harsh, characterized by isolation, fear, and strict discipline, contributing to growing tensions within the community.
3. On November 18, 1978, Congressman Leo Ryan and others were killed at the Port Kaituma airstrip, while back in Jonestown, a mass poisoning occurred as Jim Jones directed his followers to drink cyanide-laced punch, resulting in the death of over 900 people, including children.
4. The Jonestown Massacre was one of the largest single incidents of intentional civilian death in American history, raising questions about cults, charismatic leaders, and the need for stricter oversight of religious organizations.
5. The Jonestown Massacre raised questions about religious organizations and charismatic leaders by highlighting the potential dangers of unchecked influence and control over followers.

