



# CAPITOL BUILDING RIOT



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
19MA-E6XF-V9K2



## 1

### Warm up

Discuss these questions in pairs or in a group.

1. What do you know about what happened at the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. on January 6th?
2. What was the result of what happened?
3. You are going to read an article about the incident. How do you think the following people or things will be connected to the story?
  - a police veteran
  - Molotov cocktails
  - the National Guard
  - Joe Biden
  - flag poles





## 2

## Vocabulary focus

**Part A:** Look at these words from the text you will read and underline the correct words to complete the definitions.

1. **fraud:** wrongful or criminal **deception/detection/detention** intended to result in personal or financial gain
2. **contest:** **compose/oppose/propose** an action or theory as wrong
3. **merit:** the quality of being **moderately/reluctantly/particularly** worthy of praise
4. **conspiracy:** a secret plan to do something **lawful or harmless/unlawful or harmful/lawless or unhelpful**
5. **inflamed:** strong feelings are **revoked or classified / invoked or nullified / provoked or intensified**
6. **allegation:** a claim, often without proof, that someone has done something **illegal/illegitimate/ill-considered**
7. **detonate:** cause something to **upload/explode/implode**
8. **extremist:** a person who holds extreme **political or religious/skeptical or atheist/apolitical or irreligious** views, especially one who advocates violent or illegal action

**Part B:** Now use a dictionary and complete the following sentences with another form of the words from Part A.

1. While the vast majority of followers are peaceful, all religions attract people who embrace violent \_\_\_\_\_ . (extremist)
2. The prosecution told the court of how the two men had \_\_\_\_\_ to kidnap the CEO's daughter and extort money from his family. (conspiracy)
3. The fight started after two men made \_\_\_\_\_ , racist remarks towards the locals and were quickly surrounded. (inflamed)
4. In the minds of some, the United States is a \_\_\_\_\_ , where those who work hard enough reap the rewards. Others would say that race, class, and luck play a significant role. (merit)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ truth of the matter is that he's a liar and a cheat. (contest)
6. A silence fell across the room as the \_\_\_\_\_ murderer was brought into the courtroom to begin his trial. (allegation)
7. Once the crowd was a safe distance away behind barriers, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the explosives was able to safely proceed. (detonate)
8. The emails turned out to be \_\_\_\_\_ and not from the bank at all. Had he realized this sooner, he would have saved a lot of money. (fraud)

**Part C: Now answer the questions.**

1. Have you ever had to **contest** a decision? What happened?
2. Can you give any examples from your country of **extremists** and their behaviour? What happened?
3. Have you or anyone you know ever made an **allegation**? What happened?
4. Have you ever received a certificate of **merit** of any kind? What was it for?
5. Have you or anyone you know ever been the victim of **fraud**? What happened?
6. Have your feelings ever been **inflamed**? Why? What happened?
7. What are the most common **conspiracy** theories in your country? Do a lot of people believe in them?
8. Have you ever had the opportunity to **detonate** something? What happened?

**3****Creating the introduction**

Before you read, look at these fragments from the introduction to the text. Number them in the correct order.

As a result of this, five people have now died. \_\_\_\_

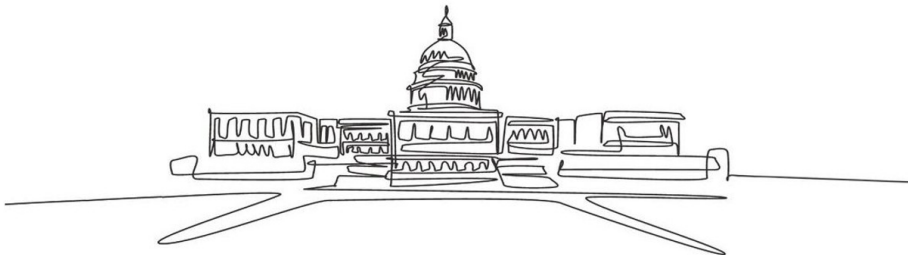
how did this happen? \_\_\_\_

Many people around the world are now asking: \_\_\_\_

On January 6th, 2021, crowds of pro-Trump supporters forced their way into the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. \_\_\_\_

There are two aspects in the answer to this question. \_\_\_\_

while elected law officials were certifying the electoral victory of Joe Biden. \_\_\_\_





4

**Scanning for details**

Quickly scan the text for the following names and write down who they are.

Matthew Brann

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Clifford Stott

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Brian D. Sicknick

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Pelosi

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Steven Sund

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Kamala Harris

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Reverend Raphael Warnock

7. \_\_\_\_\_

Now read the rest of the text on the next page. Were your predictions in the Warm Up section correct?



# The Capitol Building riot

## Violence in America's seat of Democracy

1. Firstly, since November, President Trump has been questioning the results of the 2020 Election without, so far, providing evidence: a stance many of his supporters agree with. While President Trump openly claimed the election was a **fraud** in speeches and online, several of his lawyers for the campaign said they did not think that this was the case in the courtroom.
2. Of the 60 lawsuits **contesting** the election results, the vast majority were dropped or dismissed, with Matthew Brann, a U.S. district court judge, describing one case as having 'strained legal arguments' and being "without **merit**." Nonetheless, that the results were being contested was enough for supporters and **conspiracy** theorists to fuel the narrative that the election was being stolen. This generated much anger.
3. This anger was further **inflamed** when President Trump gave a speech at midday on January 6th, lasting over an hour. He repeated his unproven **allegations** of fraud and told the crowd, "If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore." He also said he would walk with them to the Capitol Building. Instead, he immediately returned to the White House. Clifford Stott, Professor of Social Psychology at Keele University, stated, "There was a very clear purpose to that crowd and that was driven by the idea their actions were legitimate, given their perception that their president - as their Commander in Chief - had sanctioned them to go and do this."
4. The second aspect was the alleged failure of the Capitol Building Police to properly prepare for the demonstration. It was reported that, even though radical Pro-Trump supporters were openly discussing their plans online, Capitol Police did not request assistance from Washington D.C.'s main police force or the National Guard.
5. When the rioting began, they were quickly overwhelmed by the thousands of pro-Trump supporters, some carrying homemade Molotov cocktails and weapons disguised as flag poles. Pipe bombs were also later discovered on site, though were not **detonated**. As a result, dozens of police officers were injured and Brian D. Sicknick, a veteran with 15 years' experience on the police force, was murdered. Four rioters also died during the attack.
6. Due to the security failures at the organizational level, on January 7th, Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives called for the resignation of the Capitol Police Chief, Steven Sund. He resigned the same day.
7. The reaction around the world was one of shock. Many noted the difference in response to the largely white, violent Pro-Trump supporters storming the Capitol Building and the protests in summer of the Black Lives Matter movement. On January 7th, the incoming Vice President, Kamala Harris, tweeted, "We have witnessed two systems of justice: one that let **extremists** storm the U.S. Capitol yesterday, and another that released tear gas on peaceful protestors last summer. It's simply unacceptable."
8. It is telling of the United States, though, that while rioters were breaking into and vandalizing the Capitol Building, white supremacists and neo-Nazis among them, the state of Georgia was choosing Reverend Raphael Warnock as its first black senator. His mother used to pick cotton in a state that fought for slavery during the U.S. Civil War. At the age of 82, she was able to go to the polls and vote for her son as senator because, as the Reverend himself put it, "This is America."

Sources: BBC, The Guardian, Wikipedia

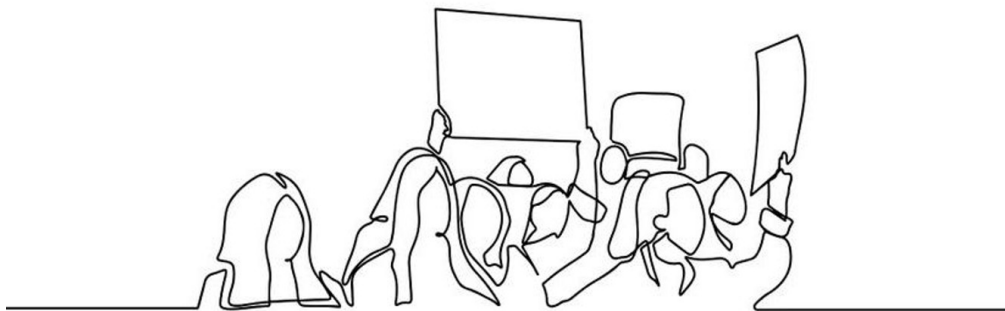


## 5

**Understanding the text**

Now complete the following sentences with no more than three words from the text.

1. Many of President Trump's supporters agree with his \_\_\_\_\_ in questioning the results of the 2020 election.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 60 lawsuits brought by the Trump administration contesting the election results were dropped or dismissed.
3. Due to the lawsuits and the rhetoric from the President and some media outlets, many supporters felt that people in the government were stealing the election, which \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. On January 6th, President Trump told the crowd that they wouldn't have a country anymore if they didn't \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. It was felt that the Capitol Police should have asked for \_\_\_\_\_ from other agencies ahead of the protest.
6. Following the riot, the Capitol Police Chief, Steven Sund, resigned because of the accusation by senior members of government of serious \_\_\_\_\_ at management level.
7. Concerns were raised about the contrast in the way the rioters were dealt with which was in stark contrast to the treatment of \_\_\_\_\_ protesters during the summer.
8. Reverend Raphael Warnock proudly pointed out that his mother had used her hands to pick cotton in her younger years and also to pick him as a senator at \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of 82.





**6 Talking point**

Discuss the following questions in pairs or groups.

1. What is your opinion of President Trump and his actions? Why? What do you think should happen to President Trump as a result of this riot?
2. What is your opinion of his supporters? Why?
3. In your opinion, what mistakes were made in the lead up to the riot? Do you agree with the author of the article that rising anger and lack of police preparation were to blame for the riot? Or do you think that other people or organizations were responsible instead/in addition?
4. Do you agree with Kamala Harris, based on what you have seen, that the U.S. has "two systems of justice?" Why? Why not?
5. The United States has become a very divided society. Is this true of society in your country? What do people disagree about in your country?

What can countries do to reduce the amount of division between different groups of people? Write down five recommendations either for the United States, your own country, or for countries generally.

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