

Name _____

Think Critically

Practice

Read the selection below and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers on the lines and then print this page.

South African Apartheid Art

For centuries, native South Africans worked on their traditional arts. By the 1930s, however, some South African artists had begun to combine African and European styles of art. The rise of apartheid began to affect their art as well. Recently, exhibitions of the work of South African artists have been held that reflect the racial injustice they have endured.

South Africa had a long history of racial injustice. For example, only white people could hold national office or own land. Meaning “separateness,” apartheid became law in 1948. Under apartheid, race determined where people could live and work. It also determined their education.

During the 1970s and 1980s, South African artists used their art to speak out against apartheid. Artists organized workshops and shows for their work. However, some of their art was taken out of the exhibits or destroyed by vandals.

South African protest art deals with the inequality during the time of apartheid. Many artists, including Gael Neke, made accusations against apartheid activists through their art.

One of the most powerful pieces of protest art was about the death of Bantu Steven Biko. Biko organized many protests against apartheid. Arrested in 1977, he died in prison only a few weeks later. While no one was formally convicted of killing Biko, artist Paul Stopforth drew his own conclusions. Stopforth made drawings that depicted Biko’s body opposite the picture of the three stern and threatening faces. The faces belonged to three police officers. The artwork implicates these men in Biko’s death.

Apartheid laws were dropped in 1990. Unfortunately, injustice continued even without the laws. Whites and blacks did not have equal status. They were unequal socially, economically, and politically. If this inequality continues, it will be very bad for the country of South Africa.

Apartheid might be officially over, but there is much work to be done. Artists like Neke and Stopforth help fight injustice by sharing their art with the world. Art can be a powerful and effective method in getting a message out.

**Part 3 READING:
LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES**

3.3 Intergration of Knowledge and Ideas

Name _____

1. Identify the following statement as a fact, opinion, or reasoned judgment, and support your answer: *If this inequality continues, it will be very bad for the country of South Africa.*

2. Identify the following statement as a fact, opinion, or reasoned judgment, and support your answer: *Apartheid laws were dropped in 1990.*

3. Identify the following statement as a fact, opinion, or reasoned judgment, and support your answer: *The artwork implicates these men in Biko's death.*

**Part 3 READING:
LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES**

3.3 Intergration of Knowledge and Ideas

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Now identify one more fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment from the selection, and support your answers.

Fact:

Opinion:

Reasoned Judgment:
