

# March for Our Lives



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where and when did the historic March for Our Lives take place?
2. What was the main purpose of the rally?
3. What gun control laws exist in your native country?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.  
 Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. rally                | a) problems that affect a person's mind and behavior                  |
| ___ 2. mass shooting        | b) guns designed to kill many people quickly                          |
| ___ 3. mental health issues | c) opinionated and vocal  |
| ___ 4. reform               | d) a memorable phrase   |
| ___ 5. cut ties             | e) a large gathering of protestors or supporters                      |
| ___ 6. passionate           | f) change   |
| ___ 7. background checks    | g) an act of gun violence with many victims                           |
| ___ 8. assault weapons      | h) filled with emotion  |
| ___ 9. outspoken            | i) to stop supporting or having a relationship with a person or group |
| ___ 10. slogan              | j) an investigation into someone's records and history                |

## Reading

1. On March 24, 2018, hundreds of thousands of people across America and the world participated in student-led **rallies** called “March for Our Lives.” These marches against gun violence were organized by a group of survivors of a **mass shooting** at a high school in Parkland, Florida.
2. On February 14, 2018, a 19-year-old former student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shot and killed 14 students and three staff members at the Florida school. The student, who suffers from **mental health issues**, legally purchased the AR-15 that he used in the shooting. None of the staff or students were surprised when they realized who the gunman was. He was known to police and had bragged of plans to shoot up a school.
3. Within days of the shooting, several Parkland survivors began organizing anti-gun violence events. The students proposed a gun **reform** bill in the state of Florida and participated in a televised town hall about the future of gun control in America. They also organized a 17-minute nationwide school walkout to honor the victims on the one-month anniversary of the Valentine’s Day massacre.
4. The high school students used the power of social media to organize and gain support for their movement. They used Twitter to call on politicians and American businesses to **cut ties** with the National Rifle Association (NRA). They also used crowdfunding to raise millions of dollars to fund the rallies.
5. The speakers at the March for Our Lives rallies were **passionate** youth seeking change. They demanded “common sense gun laws” such as **background checks** and a ban on **assault weapons**. At the main rally in Washington, DC, many **outspoken** Parkland students focused on the importance of voting out politicians who don’t support gun reform. Throughout the day, marchers shouted *Never Again* and *Enough is Enough*, two of the major **slogans** of the movement.
6. The Parkland students are determined to be the last victims of a mass school shooting in America. March for Our Lives was the largest youth-led protest since the Vietnam War.

*“I have a dream that enough is enough and that this should be a gun-free world, period.”*

—Yolanda Renee King,  
granddaughter of Martin Luther King Jr. (surprise guest at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, DC)

## Comprehension

### A. Timeline

Place the following in chronological order (1-7).  
One item is not mentioned in the reading, but it is correct.  
Place a star beside it and guess where it belongs.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Survivors from Parkland began to organize anti-gun violence events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A gunman went to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's Day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A nationwide school walkout took place on the one-month anniversary of the shooting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ High school students used social media to raise awareness and funds for the March for Our Lives rallies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seventeen people died from gunshot wounds in the Florida school shooting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parkland activist Emma Gonzalez led a moment of silence lasting several minutes during the main rally in Washington, DC.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People all over America and the world marched in the student-led anti-gun violence rallies on March 24.

### B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.  
Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What is the reading mainly about?
2. How long after the Parkland shooting did the March for Our Lives rallies take place?
3. Who organized the rallies?
4. What happened a month after this mass school shooting?
5. Which special guest spoke at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, DC?

## Research

A number of celebrities supported these youth-led rallies. Get into a small group and do some research to find out who the celebrities were and how they participated or contributed to March for Our Lives.

### A. Research

Consult at least three sources to find information about celebrities and the March for Our Lives rallies.

### B. Complete the Chart

Find out *who* supported the rallies and *how*.

### C. Compare

Compare your findings with the findings of another group.

| Celebrity |                       |              |   |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| #         | Name                  | Job          | Participation / Contribution                    |
| Ex        | <i>George Clooney</i> | <i>actor</i> | <i>donated \$500,000 to March for Our Lives</i> |
| 1         |                       |              |   |
| 2         |                       |              |   |
| 3         |                       |              |   |
| 4         |                       |              |   |
| 5         |                       |              |   |

### D. Discuss

Why is it important for famous people to participate in and contribute to movements like this? How have some of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas students become celebrities?

## Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. Gun reform is possible, but it will take a long time.
  - a) laws
  - b) change
  - c) collection
2. She is very passionate about gun reform.
  - a) shy
  - b) quiet
  - c) outspoken
3. Do gun sellers run background checks in your state?
  - a) teach gun safety
  - b) require a license
  - c) look at personal records
4. I cut ties with him the moment he bought an assault weapon.
  - a) changed my opinion
  - b) ended my relationship
  - c) became outspoken
5. Students hid in the closets during the mass shooting.
  - a) gun massacre
  - b) gun rally
  - c) gun movement
6. These outspoken kids come from a wealthy, white suburb.
  - a) vocal
  - b) rude
  - c) educated

## Discussion

1. Why do you think so many people around the world participated in the event on March 24?
2. How is youth activism different from protests led by adults?
3. Why is it important for a movement to have a leader/leaders?
4. Do you think the Parkland students have the power to change gun laws in America? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think a Parkland activist used her time at the podium to stand silently for several minutes after identifying the 17 victims?
6. Which aspect of gun reform do you think is the most important? (e.g., increasing awareness of mental health issues, requiring universal background checks, banning assault weapons, cutting political ties with gun organizations)

