AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Deaf President Now

Read about the week in 1988 when Gallaudet University students won a Deaf president, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read

Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., is a university for deaf and hard of hearing students. In its first 124 years, it never had a Deaf president.

In March 1988, the university's board chose a new president. Two of the three finalists were deaf, but the board picked the hearing finalist, who did not know sign language. Students believed a university for deaf students should have a Deaf leader.

Students closed the campus and marched to the U.S. Capitol. They made four demands, including a Deaf president and more deaf people on the board. Teachers, workers and people across the country joined them. The protest was called Deaf President Now.

After a week, the students won. On March 13, 1988, I. King Jordan was named the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University. He said, "Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do, except hear."

Answer the questions.

What is Gallaudet University?

_____

Why were the students upset?

_____

What was the protest called?

_____

Who became the first Deaf president, and when?

_____

What do you think Jordan's words mean?

_____

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Deaf President Now

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



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Answer the questions.

What is Gallaudet University?

A university for deaf and hard of hearing students

Why were the students upset?

The board picked a hearing president who did not know sign language.

What was the protest called?

Deaf President Now

Who became the first Deaf president, and when?

I. King Jordan, March 13, 1988

What do you think Jordan's words mean?

Being deaf does not stop people from doing any job.

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