

## "Four Dead in Ohio"

**Directions:** Answer the following questions/complete the following tasks on a separate piece of paper. Be sure to answer the questions completely and in complete sentences.

**Document A:** "The war had come close to tearing the nation apart. The American public no longer trusted its government..."

**Source:** *A Dubious Crusade* by James A. Warren

1. In what ways did the war come close to "tearing the nation apart"?
2. Why wouldn't many Americans trust their government?

**Document B:** "Ohio" by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young

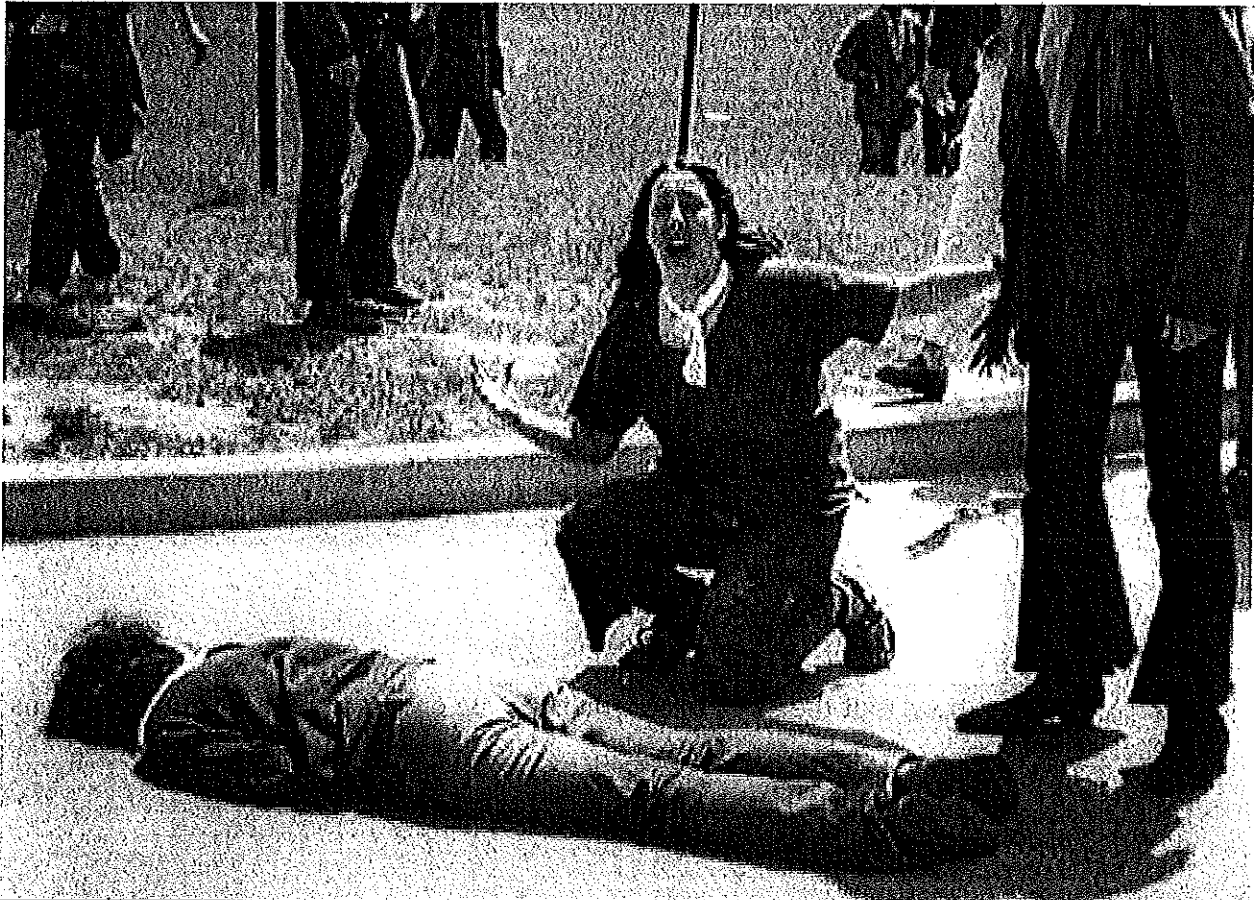
Tin soldiers and Nixon coming,  
We're finally on our own.  
This summer I hear the drumming,  
Four dead in Ohio.

Gotta get down to it  
Soldiers are cutting us down  
Should have been done long ago.  
What if you knew her  
And found her dead on the ground  
How can you run when you know?

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3. List any and all questions that the song leaves you with. Be prepared to share your questions with the class.



4. What predictions can you make about the incident in Ohio based off of the song and the photographs?
5. What questions do you still have?

**Document D:** Excerpts from an Eye-Witness Interview

“As we stood there the first thing we saw were the guardsmen huddled in front of the burned down **R.O.T.C.** building. The one guardsman was asking the crowd to please disperse, please leave the area. The crowd did not disperse...The guardsmen then began to move in and the next thing I knew they were firing teargas. We stood there for a moment and watched some of the people pick up the canisters and throw them back at the guardsmen. ..

...we heard, what we know now to be a **volley** of shots...This volley of shots seemed to last at least 15 seconds.

...two people came running down from the Taylor Hall parking lot screaming ‘They shot us. They’re shooting us!’”

**Vocabulary**

**R.O.T.C.:** (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Military training for college students located on college campuses

**volley:** a number of bullets, arrows, or other projectiles discharged at one time

6. What happened to the students according to the eye-witness interview?

Document E: The Kent State Tragedy by Roger Barr

President Nixon's expansion of the war into Cambodia on April 30, 1970, caused a national outburst of violent protests. One such protest on May 1 resulted in a confrontation between National Guardsmen and students at Kent State University in Ohio.

The campus had been the scene of a weekend of protests. The ROTC headquarters had been burned down on Saturday evening, May 2. The city's mayor, LeRoy Satrom, had asked Ohio governor James Rhodes to send National Guard troops to restore order. The guard arrived late that night and took up positions on campus. On Sunday, May 3, the guardsmen broke up a rally with bayonets.

On Monday, May 4, the students reassembled at noon on the campus commons to hold a rally. The students were told that the assembly was unlawful and were ordered to disperse. The students were incensed. They seemed to switch their attention from the war to the fact that the National Guard was on their campus. The students threw rocks at the guardsmen, and the guardsmen fired tear gas into the crowds. The guardsmen then went through the commons and returned to their original positions at 12:24 p.m. Suddenly, according to witnesses, the guardsmen turned and started firing into the crowd. Thirteen seconds later, the shooting stopped. Four students lay dead or dying, and nine more were wounded.

The deaths of the four students rocked America and sparked even more protests. Students went on strike on hundreds of campuses across the nation. Many campuses were closed for the rest of the school year. More than seventy-five thousand protestors marched on Washington D.C. on May 9.

To an ever-increasing number of Americans, the deaths at Kent State symbolized what was wrong with U.S. involvement in Vietnam. These deaths were unnecessary and senseless. The tragedy somehow proved that everything protestors had been saying about their government was right.

7. Summarize the incident in Ohio. Be sure to include details regarding: Why the students were there in the first place, why the National Guard was there, what happened to the students, how the nation responded.
8. Explain the last paragraph of Document E to someone who knows nothing about the Kent State shooting.