

Test: Comprehension

7 February 2020

Name: _____

The Battle for California's 20 Million Voters Came Early This Year

And Michael Bloomberg and Bernie Sanders are competing fiercely in places like Fresno, where candidates very rarely go.

The New York Times, By Jennifer Medina, Feb. 6, 2020.

FRESNO, Calif. — “There’s nothing magical about California,” Michael R. Bloomberg^o declared after a day flying through the state — or Iowa, for that matter, he added. But here he was in California, not any of the four early nominating states, trying to make the magic happen. So there were
 5 free carne asada tacos in front of Fresno City College, along with free Mike 2020 T-shirts, designed to draw a lunchtime crowd to hear the former New York mayor speak in a courtyard lined with citrus trees. “I have never backed down from a bully or run away from a fight,” Mr. Bloomberg said, standing in front of dozens of signs urging supporters to “vote early.” Then
 10 he turned to the core of his appeal^o: “I’m the un-Trump.”

Michael Rubens Bloomberg is an American politician, businessman, and author. Bloomberg was the Republican mayor of New York City from 2002 to 2013 and is currently a candidate in the Democratic Party primaries for the 2020 United States presidential election.

strong request, plea

It is simple math — with 415 delegates, California has more electoral power than all four early states combined. And while the political world waited for [...] the partial results from not quite 170,000 voters in Iowa, there are currently about 20 million registered voters in California. [...]

15 While the coastal cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have long been treated as political ATMs^o, the less wealthy Central Valley and Inland Empire have often struggled for attention and power. But now California's Inland Empire [...] is a must-stop. Senator Bernie Sanders and Mr. Bloomberg, the candidates who have devoted the most resources to California,
 20 have both come to campaign in person and opened up field offices in the area, as well as in the Central Valley.

cash dispenser

“People here have been beaten down for so long that they feel like their vote doesn’t matter,” said Michael Gomez Daly [...]. Smaller communities in other parts of the country have gotten attention from politicians for
 25 years, he said. “Now it’s our turn to say: ‘These are the issues and what are you going to do about it?’” Like many other local leaders, Mr. Gomez Daly lists homelessness, poverty, immigration and the environment as some of the most pressing concerns for the region. In an area packed with warehouses used to distribute imported goods all over the country, activists in
 30 the region have been focusing their ire^o on Amazon, blaming the behemoth^o for stagnant low wages and pollution. [...]

*anger, rage
giant*

Just as in other Super Tuesday states, Michael Bloomberg is spending lavishly^o to get on the airwaves here — so far paying nearly \$34 million to advertise on television across the state, including roughly \$1.8 million on
 35 Spanish-language stations, according to Advertising Analytics. [...]

generously

Current polling shows Mr. Sanders leading, ahead of Mr. Biden and Ms. Warren. Both Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., and Mr. Bloomberg have yet to break into the top tier^o in the state. [...] Mr. Bloomberg, thanks to his resources, remains the biggest unknown factor.

40 Campaign officials say they are confident they have more time to ramp up^o, with many voters still undecided and Mr. Biden's top-tier standing in question after a weak performance in the Iowa caucuses.

rank, level

to speed up

Jerry Brown, the former governor who remains one of the state's most popular political figures, said he believes the Democratic nomination may not be decided until the summer convention, but that Mr. Bloomberg could easily shift the dynamics with his spending alone. Though California has a history of rejecting self-funded candidates, Mr. Brown recalled watching his own internal polls steadily tick up during his 2010 race for governor, as he began spending heavily on television ads. "I had been behind from May to September, then we started on television after Labor Day and I started going up a point or two every week," he said. "California voters are swayed^o by what they see on their televisions.

45

50

influenced

At his rallies^o across the state Monday, several people in the crowds said they remained undecided, but were considering Mr. Bloomberg in part because of his willingness to spend lavishly to beat Mr. Trump and his experience in running the largest city in the country. [...]

55

public meeting, usually of a political nature

Latinos make up roughly 24 percent of likely voters in California, and the Sanders campaign has made getting their votes a cornerstone of its strategy here. So far, Mr. Sanders's campaign has spent roughly \$1.7 million on Spanish-language television advertising, according to Advertising Analytics, about the same as Mr. Bloomberg. And Mr. Bloomberg is aggressively courting moderate Latino and black voters, touting^o the backing of Mr. Villaraigosa and Aja Brown, the mayor of Compton and one of several African-American leaders to endorse^o him in recent days.

60

to praise

to support

"Central Valley issues are Latino issues, and Latino issues are American issues," Mr. Bloomberg told voters in Fresno. Mr. Bloomberg, who is known for his earnest but halting^o attempts to speak Spanish, shied away from speaking the language on the stump^o through his tour of the state. Then, in Compton, he riffed^o on the Super Bowl halftime show. "I think we know which team put on the most impressive performance," he said. "Shar-eek-ah and JLo." The crowd laughed politely, seemingly forgiving the mangled pronunciation of the Colombian superstar Shakira's name. [...]

65

70

insecure, unconfident election campaign to speak about

Rusty Bailey, the mayor of Riverside, [...] was leaning toward Mr. Buttigieg until Mr. Bloomberg came to stump in Riverside in January. The top issue in the region is homelessness, Mr. Bailey said, and he believes that Mr. Bloomberg understands the concerns.

75

Mr. Gomez Daly, the policy director of the Inland Empire advocacy group, said that the infusion of attention was a "dream for the local political infrastructure." And, he said, he sees other benefits too. "Everybody I know seems to have been hired by the Sanders and Bloomberg campaigns."

80

Comprehension

In the following, make sure that you use **your own words** as far as possible. Use **formal language** (no contracted forms!) and formulate answers in **complete sentences**! (50% substance, 50% language if content offers a reasonable answer to the question.)

1. What is Michael Bloomberg's argument in the first paragraph about?

	2	2
--	---	---

2. Why is California so important in the presidential election?

	2	2
--	---	---

3. How has the focus on California changed with regard to election campaigns?

	2	2
--	---	---

4. a) What have the people in California's rural regions been frustrated by and b) what are their most urgent issues?

	4	2
--	---	---

5. *What fact about Californians does the example of Jerry Brown illustrate in the article?*

	2	2
--	---	---

6. *Why do some undecided voters consider Michael Bloomberg?*

	2	2
--	---	---

7. *What does the article say about how Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg deal with Latinos?*

	4	2
--	---	---

8. *What additional advantage for rural California does Mr. Gomez Daly mention?*

	2	2
--	---	---

Vocabulary

1. Synonyms: give one word that is similar in meaning to the following as used in the text.

to design (as in line 6!) to intend, to create, to make

to struggle (17) to fight

attempt (67) try

seemingly (71) apparently

2. Antonyms: give one word that is the opposite in meaning to the following as used in the text.

wealthy (16) poor, needy

to recall (47) to forget

roughly (57) exactly, precisely

politely (71) impolitely, rudely

4

3. Say in your own words what the following words or phrases mean (as used in the text). Always write full sentences!

immigration (27) Immigration is the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.

Super Tuesday (33) Super Tuesday is a day on which several states hold primary elections.

4

4. Word families: please fill in the right form of the word that is given on the right. (adjective, adverb, noun, verb)

1. Prices are lower when there is **competition** among the stores. **to compete** (lead)

2. The battle was **additionally** notable because both opposing generals, Wolfe and Montcalm, received mortal wounds. **to add** (3)

3. She has played a **decisive** role in the peace negotiations. **to decide** (45)

4. Smoking doubles the **likeliness** of a stroke. **likely** (57)

5. Careful **consideration** should be given to health and safety. **to consider** (54)

5