

Gideon's Trumpet

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

1. Of what two crimes was Clarence Earl Gideon accused?
2. Why didn't Gideon hire a lawyer for his trial?
3. Why didn't the judge appoint a lawyer for Gideon?
4. Once he was in prison, what actions did Gideon take regarding his conviction?
5. On what grounds did Gideon appeal his case? (What right did he feel he had been denied, and why did he feel had that right?)
6. What did previous Supreme Court rulings provide regarding the rights of the accused to an attorney at the taxpayers' expense?
7. Why did all the other inmates take such an interest in Gideon?
8. Abe Fortas argued Gideon's case before the Supreme Court. What was his main point, and how did he use the name of Clarence Darrow to support his argument?
9. Several references are made to indigent persons who attempt to conduct their own defense. What is an indigent person?

10. On what grounds did the lawyer for the State of Florida argue that Gideon had a fair trial?
11. How does the question of federalism pertain to this case?
12. What two practical concerns were expressed about the consequences if the court decided in Gideon's favor?
13. How did the court decide in Gideon's case, and what was the vote?
14. What did Gideon say was the significance of his case?
15. Why did Gideon dismiss the ACLU lawyers?
16. Why did Gideon feel he shouldn't have to have a new trial?
17. Explain at least two ways in which Gideon's defense was better in the second trial than in the first because he had a lawyer.