



Read the biography passage carefully. Then answer each question below in complete sentences.

Look for key facts about the person's early life, achievements, and impact. Use details from the passage to support your answers.

Viola Desmond: The Woman Who Fought for Fairness



Imagine a time when people faced unfair treatment because of their skin color. Viola Desmond, a brave Canadian businesswoman, challenged these rules and helped change history.

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1914, Viola was an entrepreneur. She owned a beauty salon and school, helping Black women learn skills and find opportunities.

In 1946, Viola made a courageous stand. While her car was repaired in New Glasgow, she went to a movie theater. She bought a ticket for the main floor but was told to sit in the balcony, meant for Black patrons. Viola knew this was wrong and refused to move.

Because she would not leave, Viola was arrested and fined. She fought the charge in court, but lost. Her bravery sparked important talks about racial segregation in Canada.

Today, Viola Desmond is remembered as a civil rights pioneer. Her act helped lead to equal rights for all Canadians. Her image is on Canada's ten-dollar bill, a reminder of her fight for justice.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Where was Viola Desmond born?



- A Halifax, Nova Scotia B New Glasgow, Nova Scotia C Toronto, Ontario
 D Vancouver, British Columbia

(2) In 1946, Viola Desmond made a courageous stand at a _____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word "entrepreneur" mean as it is used in the passage?

- A A person who works for someone else.
 B A person who owns and runs their own business.
 C A person who teaches at a school. D A person who watches movies.

(4) Why do you think Viola Desmond refused to move to the balcony even though she knew it might cause trouble? Use details from the passage.

(5) How has Viola Desmond's act of bravery changed Canada? What can we learn from her life today?



