**Uncovering the Ku Klux Klan**

There are those who maintain that certain races, religions, and nationalities are superior to others. The Ku Klux Klan, commonly called the KKK, is a group that bases its beliefs in white supremacy. The Ku Klux Klan is an organization of people who hate other groups of people, particularly those who are not native born, African American, or Jewish. Members of the KKK especially oppose the advancement of Blacks, Jews, and other minority groups.

In 1866 a group of Confederate Army veterans in Pulaski, Tennessee, formed a social club. The name Ku Klux Klan is taken from the Greek word *kyklos* which means circle and the English word *clan*. Members of this group believed in the superiority of whites and began terrorizing African Americans to prevent them from voting. Klan members wore robes and white hoods to hide their identities and even draped sheets over their horses. They burned crosses to frighten the newly freed slaves and threatened, beat, and lynched their victims. The Ku Klux Klan spread rapidly throughout the Southern United States. Following a Congressional investigation of the Klan inn 1871, the KKK’s activities were diminished, and virtually disappeared for the next 50 years.

After World War I, agricultural depression, migration, and other social and economic factors caused social unrest. The Klan philosophy was broadened to include anti-foreign, anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic, and anti-urban principles. At its height in the mid-twenties, the revived KKK had between four and six million members and dominated the government of at least seven states. The KKK became known as “The Invisible Empire.”

1. Quoting textual evidence describe the Ku Klux Klan and their beliefs? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What actions did the KKK carry out to support their beliefs? Cite textual evidence.

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1. In lines 10-11, the KKK wore white robes and put white robes over their horses, what reasons would the KKK have to hide their identity?

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1. How did the beliefs and attitudes of the Ku Klux Klan perpetuate the system of racism? Cite textual evidence.

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