

READING COMPREHENSION

CHE GUEVARA

Fidel Castro's partner in the Cuban Revolution, Che Guevara, has become an iconic figure. Untold numbers of young people wear his image on their clothes without even knowing who he is. Historians

may debate his effectiveness, but there is no denying his stature as a symbol of rebellion. Read the brief account below of Guevara's early days, then answer the questions.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara was born on June 14, 1928, in Argentina. He was the oldest of five children. Because the boy suffered from severe asthma, his family moved several times, trying to find a place where he could be healthy.

As a young man, he studied medicine. He also got a permanent nickname: "Che," from an Argentine expression similar to "Hey, kid" or "Yo, dude." Guevara and his best friend, another medical student named Alberto Granado, traveled through South America by motorcycle, boat, and hitchhiking.

Some people they met were so poor that

they were starving to death. Others were rich and treated the poor with contempt. This made Guevara angry at the world's injustices. He moved to Guatemala, hoping to become a "revolutionary doctor." But in 1954, the army took over the government of Guatemala. They forced Guevara to leave the country.

The next year, he met two Cuban brothers, Fidel and Raúl Castro. They invited him to fight in the revolution they were planning in Cuba. After the Cuban Revolution, Guevara participated in other rebellions in Latin America. He was killed by soldiers in Bolivia in 1967.

QUESTIONS

1. In what country was Che Guevara born?

2. What health problem did he have? _____
3. What does the nickname "Che" mean?

4. To which country did Guevara move? _____
5. How did he and a friend travel around South America? _____
6. What did he see that affected him the most?

7. Why do you think the Guatemalan government forced him to leave? _____

8. Why do you think he traveled around so much?

9. What was the impact of Guevara's meeting the Castro brothers? _____

10. How do you think Guevara's experiences on his trip around South America led him to become a revolutionary? _____

