

Engel v. Vitale / Photograph Analysis—Answer Key



Texan School Class in Prayer, 6/27/1962, San Antonio, TX (Bettmann via Getty Images)

Observe

1. What do you notice first?
Student answers will vary but may include a flag, a teacher at the front of the class, students dressed up in 1960s style, desks, bookshelf, or books.
2. What people and objects are shown?
Student answers will vary but may include a flag, a teacher at the front of the class, students dressed up in 1960s style, desks, bookshelf, and books.
3. What is the setting?
A high school classroom. We learn from the caption that it is located in San Antonio, Texas.

Reflect

4. What is happening in this image?
Students and the teacher have their heads bowed in prayer.
5. What is significant about the date this photo was taken?

This photo was taken on June 27, 1962 which was two days after the decision in *Engel v. Vitale*. This shows that some classes/schools continued to pray even after the decision that teacher led prayer was unconstitutional.

6. If someone took this photo today, what would be different? What would be the same?
Student answers will vary but may include that students would not be praying, styles of dress would be different and likely less formal, hair styles would be different, classes may not be arranged in rows, or that there would be technology in the classroom such as laptops, Smart boards, etc.

Question

7. What do you still wonder about?
Student answers will vary.

Caption

8. Write a caption for this image.
Student answers will vary.