

The Mafia: Answer key

Comprehension

1. advisor or counsellor
2. The code of silence
3. They have been highly successful in operating as international corporations or large and small national and local businesses according to the economic opportunities of the time.
4. 'morte alla Francia Italia anelia' (death to the French is Italy's cry)
5. These secret societies in the hills of Sicily were struggling not only to expel the French but also to protect and feed the people of Palermo and surrounding areas.
6. No, because the Mafia would send the 'Black Hand' notes to wealthy people asking politely for money in exchange for 'protection' of themselves, their property and businesses. If you were unable to pay the sum requested, you would become a victim of violence.
7. They were the only effective 'government' in operation.
8. Mario Puzo
9. The US Government made illegal the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol. Mafia bosses, like Al Capone in Chicago, started complex operations first importing and later manufacturing alcoholic drinks for secret sale in 'speakeasy' bars.
10. He mysteriously disappeared in 1975.