

Name _____ Date _____

BBC NEWS

1 May 2006

Workers in London May Day march

Thousands of workers from across the UK have joined the traditional May Day trade union rally in central London.



Demonstrators marched to a rally in Trafalgar Square

TUC chief Brendan Barber called for strong laws to tackle poverty pay, the gender wage gap and work discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Speeches in Trafalgar Square followed a march from Clerkenwell Green.

Workers from the Peugeot factory in Ryton, near Coventry, which is to close in July with the loss of 2,300 jobs, took part in the demonstration.

Mr Barber told the rally: "No longer should British workers like the Peugeot workers in Coventry find that they are the cheapest and easiest in Europe to get rid of when the going gets tough - and we send them a message of solidarity today."

The march was organised by the TUC and the London May Day organising committee.

The traditional event brings together trade unions, anti-globalisation organisations, migrant workers, pensioners and other campaigning bodies.

Last year, up to 40,000 took part in the demonstration which ended with a music festival and speeches in Trafalgar Square.

Adapted from: BBC NEWS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/london/4951406.stm>
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More information about the London May Day organising committee and this year's march at <http://www.londonmayday.org/>

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Workers in London May Day march

- 1) When was this news article published?
- 2) Where did the march start?
- 3) Where did the march finish?
- 4) Who is Mr Barber?
- 5) Does Mr Barber think it is easy to get rid of British workers?
- 6) Why did workers from the Peugeot factory take part in the demonstration?
- 7) Who organised the march?
- 8) Who takes part in the march?
- 9) How many people took part in 2005?
- 10) What do these words mean? Look them up in a dictionary.
 - traditional
 - discrimination
 - solidarity
 - campaigning
 - globalisation
- 11) What do you think "poverty pay" is? Discuss it with a partner.

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May Day marches - writing task

What do you think about May Day marches?

Choose one of the following topics.

- 1) Write about your experience of a march.
Have you been on a march or seen one?

- 2) Write about a cause you think it would be good to demonstrate about.

- 3) Write a letter to a newspaper saying what you think about May Day marches in London.

Your writing needs to be at least 3 paragraphs long.

Make a plan here.

Name _____ Date _____

Write a rough draft.

Check and correct your draft.

Name _____ Date _____

Write a neat copy.