GRADES 4-6
+ CIVIL RIGHTS ENTHUSIASTS OF ALL AGES

CIVIL RIGHTS
ACTIVITY BOOK

SPLC Civil Rights Memorial Center
Sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center
splcenter.org
Civil Rights Timeline

**Civil Rights Movement**

People have taken a stand for civil and human rights since the beginning of time. Here, we honor the courage and commitment displayed by countless individuals — some who lost their lives — in the struggle for equal rights during a time known as the modern American Civil Rights Movement.

**1954**

May 17, 1954
Supreme Court outlaws school segregation in Brown v. Board of Education

**1955**

May 7, 1955
THE REV. GEORGE LEE
Killed for leading voter-registration drive
Belzoni, Mississippi

August 13, 1955
LAMAR SMITH
Murdred for organizing black voters
Brookhaven, Mississippi

August 28, 1955
EMMETT LOUIS TILL
Murdered for speaking to a white woman
Money, Mississippi

October 22, 1955
JOHN EARL REESE
October 22, 1955
Money, Mississippi

**1956**

November 13, 1956
Supreme Court bans segregated seating in Montgomery buses

**1957**

January 23, 1957
WILLIE EDWARDS JR.
Killed by Klansmen
Montgomery, Alabama

August 29, 1957
Congress passes first civil rights act since reconstruction

September 24, 1957
President Eisenhower orders federal troops to enforce school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas

**1958**

April 25, 1959
Black students stage sit-in at “whites only” lunch counter in Mayflower, Texas

**1959**

April 25, 1959
MACK CHARLES PARKER
Taken from jail and lynched
Poplarville, Mississippi

December 1, 1955
Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man
Montgomery, Alabama

December 5, 1955
Montgomery bus boycott begins

**1960**

February 1, 1960
Black students stage sit-in at “whites only” lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina

December 5, 1960
Supreme court outlaws segregation in bus terminals

**1961**

May 14, 1961
Freedom Riders attacked in Alabama while testing compliance with bus desegregation laws

September 25, 1961
HERBERT LEE
Voter registration worker killed by white legislator
Liberty, Mississippi

**1962**

May 3, 1963
Birmingham police attack marching children with dogs and fire hoses

November 11, 1963
George Wallace stands in schoolhouse door to stop university integration

**1963**

March 7, 1965
State troopers beat back marchers at Edmund Pettus Bridge
Selma, Alabama

April 4, 1968
THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Assassinated
Memphis, Tennessee

**1964**

January 23, 1964
Poll tax outlawed in federal elections

January 31, 1964
LOUIS ALLEN
Witness to murder of civil rights worker assassinated
Liberty, Mississippi

**1965**

May 2, 1964
HENRY HEZEKIAH D & CHARLES EDDIE MOORE
Killed by Klansmen
Meadville, Mississippi

March 7, 1965
State troopers beat back marchers at Edmund Pettus Bridge
Selma, Alabama

March 11, 1965
THE REV. JAMES REEB
March volunteer beaten to death
Selma, Alabama

April 24, 1965
JIMMIE LEE JACKSON
Killed by Klansmen
Meadville, Mississippi

July 2, 1965
President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964

July 11, 1965
LT. COL. LEMUEL PENN
Killed by Klansmen while driving north
Colbert, Georgia

**1966**

January 3, 1966
SAMUEL YOUNGE JR.
Student civil rights activist killed in dispute
Tuskegee, Alabama

January 10, 1966
VERNON DAHMER
Black community leader killed in Klan bombing
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

June 10, 1966
BEN CHESTER WHITE
Killed by Klansmen
Natchez, Mississippi

**1967**

February 27, 1967
WHARLEST JACKSON
Civil rights leader killed after promotion to ‘white’ job
Natchez, Mississippi

May 12, 1967
BENJAMIN BROWN
Civil rights worker killed when police fired on protesters
Jackson, Mississippi

October 2, 1967
Thurgood Marshall sworn in as first black Supreme Court justice

**1968**

February 8, 1968
SAMUEL HAMMON D JR., DELANO MIDDLETON, HENRY SMITH
Students killed when highway patrolmen fire on protesters
Orangeburg, South Carolina

April 4, 1968
THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Assassinated
Memphis, Tennessee

The great triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950’s and 60’s continue to inspire those who seek justice and equality today.
Civil Rights Memorial Center

In Montgomery, Alabama, in 1989, the Southern Poverty Law Center built a memorial to educate young people about the Civil Rights Movement.

Memorial designer Maya Lin, who also designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., says it is “a place to remember the Civil Rights Movement, to honor those killed during the struggle, to appreciate how far the country has come in its quest for equality, and to consider how far it has to go.”
A Lawyer Seeking Justice

Morris Dees grew up on a cotton farm in Alabama. He picked cotton alongside the black men who worked on the farm. Even when he was little, he did not believe that black people and white people should be treated differently. He was very fair even then.

When he was still in college, he started a business delivering birthday cakes to his classmates who couldn’t be with their families.

After he became a lawyer, Morris fought in the courts for black people and white people and people of all races to be treated the same — even when no other lawyers would. He won lawsuits that allowed black people to join the state police force, swim in YMCA swimming pools, and get elected into the state legislature.

Morris Dees looked around the country and saw that there were many people who needed his help. Morris wanted to help those people, too, so he and Montgomery attorney Joe Levin created the Southern Poverty Law Center. Today, Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center help hundreds of thousands of people all over the country to be treated fairly.
When Did It Happen?
Draw a line from the event that took place during the Civil Rights Movement to the year it happened.

- March on Washington
- Thurgood Marshall joins the Supreme Court
- President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act
- Lunch Counter Sit-In
- Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Congress passes the Voting Rights Act

Where Did It Happen?
Draw the symbol next to the place where it happened.

- Thurgood Marshall joins the Supreme Court
- Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Beginning of the Voting Rights March
- March on Washington
- President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act
- Lunch Counter Sit-In
The Journey
This was the scene in bus stations across the South during segregation.
Take a moment to study the photograph.

What details do you notice about the room? About the man?
How does the picture make you feel?

Write a short story from the point of view of the gentleman in the photograph. Where is he going? Whom will he meet along the way? Imagine how his journey is affected by the practices of segregation, and how he must be forced to deal with them, emotionally and practically.
Powerful Words
The Civil Rights Memorial includes a curved black granite wall that is engraved with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s well-known paraphrase of Amos 5:24. Unscramble the letters below to reveal the quote.

Ultni ijeusct lolsr
nwdo eikl tsearw
dan noshteurseisg
kiel a ihgmyt trames

“U_____c_____r_
__________r_____
___e_______s___
___g______”

What will the world look like when these powerful words reflect reality?
Overheard
Find the words or expressions often used during the Civil Rights Movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boycott</th>
<th>Voting rights</th>
<th>Segregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protest</td>
<td>Equality</td>
<td>Integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration</td>
<td>Equal rights</td>
<td>Jim Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violence</td>
<td>Struggle</td>
<td>Sit-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom</td>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who Am I?
I grew up in Chicago.
In the summer of 1955, I took a bus to Money, Mississippi, to visit my cousins.
I was 14 years old.
My name is

What do you think he most enjoyed about visiting his cousins in Mississippi during the summer?
Civil Rights Martyrs

The names of 40 individuals who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement are etched into the Civil Rights Memorial. Take several minutes to read about these individuals in the Timeline on pages 4-5. Study their faces on this page.

What the Martyrs Have in Common

They were all killed because some people opposed equal rights for black people.

How the Martyrs Differ from One Another

Some were older; some were just children.

Next, fill out the chart ➤
We Shall Overcome
Originally composed as “I’ll Overcome Someday” by Rev. Charles Tindley in 1901.

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

The Lord will see us through, the Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

We’re on to victory, we’re on to victory,
We’re on to victory someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We’re on to victory someday.

We’ll walk hand in hand, we’ll walk hand in hand,
We’ll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We’ll walk hand in hand someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.

The truth shall set us free, the truth shall set us free,
The truth shall set us free someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
The truth shall set us free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall live in peace someday.

My verse:

Do you know this favorite protest song from the Civil Rights Movement?
Sing along, then create your own refrain to share with friends and family.
Who Said That?

Sometimes someone says something so amazing that it just has to be repeated.

The Civil Rights Memorial’s beautiful black granite wall includes a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This line from the Book of Amos was quoted by Dr. King during his “I Have a Dream” speech. It reflects his belief that we must keep working to ensure equal rights for everyone.

“Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream”

Think about what you might say to express a similar sentiment.

The best quotes are short and to the point. Create your own memorable quote to be placed on the Civil Rights Memorial wall on the next page.

This is what I believe:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Once you have added your own memorable quote to the memorial, color in the water as it flows over the surfaces.
Who Am I?

I was a mother of five children living in Detroit, Michigan. One night, I saw some very disturbing images on the evening news. State troopers in Selma, Alabama, were attacking peaceful protestors with tear gas and clubs as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I couldn’t do anything but cry as I watched.

Four days later came the news reports of the death of the Rev. James Reeb, a white minister from Washington, D.C., who came to Alabama to join Dr. King and thousands of others who were determined to march from Montgomery to Selma.

I got in my car and left for Selma alone.
A Moment in Time
A Deeper Look at the Civil Rights Memorial
Answer the following questions using the Civil Rights Memorial table as reference.

1) What was the name of the case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court that ended segregation in schools?

2) In what city was Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus?

3) When did 250,000 Americans march on Washington, D.C., for Civil Rights?

4) Which U.S. president signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

5) What is the name of the first African-American Supreme Court Justice?
Children of the Movement
Find the names of the children included on the Civil Rights Memorial in the word search below.

Addie Mae Collins  Emmett Till
Denise McNair    Virgil Ware
John Earl Reese  Cynthia Wesley
Carole Robertson

The March Continues
Social movements often use signs to convey a message. Civil Rights activists would create signs to be used as part of demonstrations or acts of civil disobedience. Design a protest sign to deliver your own important message.
Then and Now

Which one of the people pictured was not an activist during the Civil Rights Movement?

How did this person benefit from the Civil Rights Movement?

Now draw a picture of yourself and your friends in the background, joining the march.

How do you benefit from the Civil Rights Movement?
Famous Civil Rights Protest Marches

Draw a line from the march to the corresponding photo. The images are your clues.

March on Washington
Memphis Sanitation Workers
Selma to Montgomery March
Bloody Sunday
Children’s Crusade

Who Am I?

Once, I walked alone from Baltimore, Maryland, to the state capitol in Annapolis to protest segregation.

Later, I walked to Washington, D.C., to deliver a letter I wrote to President Kennedy at the White House.

My last walk was to be much longer — from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi — to deliver a letter urging Governor Ross Barnett to accept integration.

I never finished that march. Thankfully, others completed it for me.

What challenges would he have faced along the way?
Rosa Parks' Path

Trace the path that is the shortest distance between home and work for Mrs. Parks.

Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

Match the identical pictures of Mrs. Rosa Parks on a Montgomery city bus.

BORN

Rosa Louise McClauley
Born February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama
Died October 24, 2005, in Detroit, Michigan

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

Rosa Parks lived with her husband, Raymond, in the Cleveland Court housing development. During the Montgomery bus boycott, Mrs. Parks, like thousands of others, often walked to work.
Facts About the Movement

**ACROSS**

3 _______ Marshall was the first black Supreme Court justice.
10 _______ Till was a 14-year-old boy from Chicago, Illinois.
11 _______ Evers was the first NAACP Field Secretary for Mississippi.
13 The school the Alabama Governor fought to keep segregated.
17 Where Mrs. Rosa Parks was trained in nonviolent civil disobedience.
18 The number of students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
19 The first black student to attend the University of Mississippi.
20 Number of students who began the Woolworth Lunch Counter Sit-In in Greensboro, North Carolina.
21 Her name before she became known as Mrs. Coretta King.

**DOWN**

1 During the 1960’s, he was a Freedom Rider and led the “Bloody Sunday” march. He became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
2 “Bloody Sunday” protestors marched across this bridge.
4 President of the United States who signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
5 _______ Edwards was forced to jump to his death in the Alabama River.
6 This reverend was killed protesting construction of segregated schools in Cleveland, Ohio.
7 French reporter killed during a riot at Ole Miss.
8 The Tennessee city where Dr. King was killed.
9 The Baptist Church where four schoolgirls were killed in Birmingham.
12 He preached about voting rights at his church in Mississippi.
14 City that is home to the Civil Rights Memorial.
15 16-year-old Texan shot while with his cousin in a little café.
16 George _______ was the Alabama governor who blocked the schoolhouse door.
**Ripples of Hope**

Inside the Civil Rights Memorial Center, next to the Wall of Tolerance, a quote from Robert F. Kennedy’s 1966 speech at Cape Town University in South Africa appears. It reads, in part:

... Each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of these acts will be written the history of this generation.

... Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.

When you drop a rock in a pool of water, small waves ripple out from where the rock hit the water. Water also bubbles up through the Civil Rights Memorial to ripple out over the names of people who took a stand during the Civil Right Movement. In a similar way, when you make a personal choice, the effect or consequences of that choice can ripple out to many other people.

Think about a time when you took a stand to help someone else. Fill out the ripples on the facing page, to show how your choice affected those around you.

**EXAMPLE**

I told Dexter to stop calling Zoe names. Dexter knew he needed to stop being mean. I became best friends with Zoe, and she introduced me to Tristan and Helena. We helped our school to be a nicer place.

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

Now fill in the ripples
Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around

Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around,
Turn me around, turn me around,
Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around,
I’m gonna keep on a-walkin’, keep on a-talkin’
Marchin’ down to freedom land

Ain’t gonna let segregation turn me around,
Turn me around, turn me around,
Ain’t gonna let segregation turn me around,
I’m gonna keep on a-walkin’, keep on a-talkin’
Marchin’ up to freedom land

Ain’t gonna let no Jim Crow turn me around ...

Ain’t gonna let racism turn me around ...

Ain’t gonna let no hatred turn me around ...

Ain’t gonna let injustice turn me around ...

Ain’t gonna let no jail cell turn me around ...
Who Am I?

I was the youngest of 12 children. My dad was a farmer. We had 80 acres of land.

I served as a military police officer in the U. S. Army, reaching the rank of corporal.

My wife had just had a new baby, and I was granted emergency leave to go home. I was excited about seeing them, but a little anxious about the 950-mile bus ride.

I was asleep when the bus pulled into my hometown of Taylorsville, Mississippi. Apparently, a Taylorsville police officer came on board when we arrived. He woke me up by slapping my face. The officer slapped me several more times before he shot me.

Some say the police officer shot me because I was seated in the wrong section of the bus. Others say I was mistaken for a “Freedom Rider.” The police officer later claimed I attacked him, and the grand jury believed him. The police officer was cleared of any wrongdoing.

More than 2,000 people attended my funeral. I was buried with full military honors, including a 16-gun salute.
Pledge to Take a Stand

On the Wall of Tolerance in the Civil Rights Memorial Center, visitors have an opportunity to make a pledge to stand against hate and work for tolerance and justice in their daily lives:

I pledge to take a stand against hate, injustice and intolerance. I will work in my daily life for justice, equality and human rights — the ideals for which the Civil Rights martyrs died.

What does this mean to you? Rewrite the pledge in your own words.

SHARE YOUR PLEDGE WITH A FRIEND OR ADULT, AND ASK THEM TO COMMIT TO IT, TOO.

We, ___________________________ and ___________________________, commit to the pledge above and will help each other live up to these promises, today and every day.

YOUR SIGNATURE

FRIEND/ADULT SIGNATURE

DATE

★ Keep your pledge someplace where you will see it — and remember it — often!
People Power
Find the 10 things that are different in the second photograph from the original and circle them.
Glossary

**Activism** (noun) the act of doing something, like participating in a march or boycott to create change in the world

**Activist** (noun) the person who is doing something to create change

**Boycott** (noun) refusing to deal with/buy from a person, business or organization

**Civil Rights** (plural noun) rights that guarantee freedom and equality to everyone

**Demonstration** (noun) publicly expressing support or protest

**Equality** (noun) being equal in rights and privileges

**Integration** (verb) to bring people together across different groups, such as race and religion

**Jim Crow** (noun) the system of rules and practices used to discriminate against African-Americans

**Justice** (noun) fairness, following the law

**Martyr** (noun) a person who is put to death or suffers greatly on behalf of a belief or cause

**Protest** (noun) making public your dislike or disapproval of something

**Segregation** (noun) the practice of separating out by race, religion or other group from others

**Tolerance** (noun) a fair, objective and accepting attitude toward those who are different from you

Activity Answers

#3 March on Washington — 1963
Thurgood Marshall joins the Supreme Court — 1967
President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act — 1964
Lunch Counter sit-in — 1960
Montgomery Bus Boycott — 1965
Congress Passes Voting Rights Act — 1965

#9 Emmett Louis Till

#13 Viola Liuzzo

#14 1) Brown v. Board of Education
2) Montgomery, Alabama
3) August 28, 1963
4) President Johnson
5) Thurgood Marshall

#15

#17 President Barack Obama
The Civil Rights Movement helped him become president of the United States

#18

Selma to Montgomery March
Children’s Crusade
Bloody Sunday
Martin Luther King Jr.
Memphis Sanitation Workers
Activity Answers

#19 William Moore

#20

#21

#22 Across
3) Thurgood
10) Emmett
11) Medgar
13) University of Alabama
17) Highlander
18) Nine
19) James Meredith
20) Four
21) Scott

#25 Corporal Roman Ducksworth Jr.

#27

Down
1) John Lewis
2) Edmund Pettus
4) Lyndon B. Johnson
5) Willie
6) Bruce Klunder
7) Paul Guihard
8) Memphis
9) Sixteenth Street
12) George Lee
14) Montgomery
15) John Reese
16) Wallace
...UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN LIKE WATERS
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.