

The Civil Rights Movement Awakening a Nation



STUDENT ACTIVITY

BACKGROUND

In this activity, you will be investigating the events that occurred during the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. One person in your group will study the events that took place in Birmingham, Alabama, and one person will study the March on Washington in 1963. Two people will study the speeches and letters of Martin Luther King, Jr.

DIRECTIONS

1. As you begin your investigations, you may want to get an overview of the topics mentioned above before you decide on your team assignments. One way to do this would be to watch the program *Awakening a Nation*.
2. Choose one of the topics listed above for research. Write the name of your topic in the box provided below.

I will be investigating _____ .

3. Begin with what you already know about your topic. This can be from the video program or from what you have learned at another time. Write what you know in the box below. If needed, you may use an additional sheet of paper.

What I know about my topic:

4. In the box below, write some questions that come to mind about your topic based on what you know. If needed, you may use an additional sheet of paper.

Questions I have about my topic:

5. You should also include the following questions in your investigations. Each student will be finding information from their topic that will help us answer:
- How have Americans reacted to inequality and injustice?
 - What key actions shaped the Civil Rights Movement and began a new era for minorities in the United States?
 - How did the struggle for equality lead to protests and riots?
 - How did the United States respond to the demands of minority groups in order to achieve equality and opportunities?
 - How did the struggle for equality in the middle of the 20th century lead to the extension of civil liberties for all Americans?
6. Begin your research. Try to answer your questions and those in number 5 as best as you can. For number 5, try to find evidence in both primary and secondary sources that will help you respond to these questions. Be sure to cite all references using appropriate citations. Your teacher will guide you as to what format you should use.
7. The following resources might be a good place to start your investigation:

Books

Kasher, S. (1996). *The Civil Rights Movement: A Photographic History, 1954-68*. New York: Abbeville Press.

King, Jr. M. L. (1986). *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Edited by James M. Washington. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.

URLs

<http://thekingcenter.com/>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change

<http://www.archervalerie.com/mlk3.ram>

Audio archives of excerpts from Martin Luther King, Jr. speeches.

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/civilrightstimeline1.html>

Timeline of the Civil Rights Movement

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/mlk/srs218.html>

MLK Biographical sketch from Louisiana State University

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/>

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University (includes secondary sources)