

The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change

Freedom Rides in Mississippi 50th Anniversary

Online Lesson

In the spring of 1961, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized rides in an attempt to end segregation under the auspices of “separate but equal” in the American South. The riders were volunteers, black and white, young and old, who bravely set out on a journey to change an accepted practice that was firmly entrenched in the south. Students will discover and discuss the Freedom Rides, the participants on both sides, the origins and background of the movement, and the impact of the rides on Mississippi and the country. Lessons and handouts are adaptable for grades 4-12.

Objectives

- Students will learn about and examine segregation and “separate but equal” as it existed in Mississippi and the American south.
- Students will identify the laws and court rulings that were in effect and were challenged with the Civil Rights movement.
- Students will learn about the Freedom Rides and the challenges faced by the participants during the rides.
- Students will use historic images, oral histories, and documents to examine the events and people surrounding the Freedom Rides in Mississippi.
- Students will discuss, examine, and determine the outcome of the Freedom Rides and the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement.

Common Core and Mississippi Department of Education Curricular Connections

Common Core Language Arts	Grade 4	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI7; RI8; RI9; W1; W4; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3
	Grade 5	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI7; RI8; RI9; W1; W4; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3
	Grade 6	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI6; RI7; RI8; W1; W4; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH7; RH8; WHST4; WHST7
	Grade 7	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI6; RI7; RI8; W1; W4; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH7; RH8; WHST4; WHST7
	Grade 8	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI6; RI7; RI8; W1; W4; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH7; RH8; WHST4; WHST7
	Grades 9-10	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI6; RI7; RI8; W1; W4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH8; WHST4
	Grades 11-12	RI1; RI2; RI3; RI4; RI5; RI6; RI7; W1; W4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH7; RH8; WHST4
Common Core Math	Grade 4	4.OA.1; 4.NBT.1; 4.NBT.4; 4.NBT.5
	Grade 5	5.NBT.5; 5.NBT.6; 5.NBT.7
	Grade 6	6.NS.2; 6.NS.3
	Grade 7	7.SP.1; 7.SP.2
Social Studies	Mississippi Studies (Grade 4)	1c; 3a; 3c; 4a-c; 6b; 6c
	World Geography and Citizenship	2b; 3a; 3b; 6a; 6b; 6d; 6e
	Mississippi Studies (Grade 9)	4a-d; 6b
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a-e
	U.S. Government	5a; 5b
	African American Studies	1c; 1d; 4c; 4d
	Minority Studies	1b; 1d; 2a; 2c; 4a; 4b

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Lesson One: *Separate but Equal?*

Students will understand the history of segregation laws and practices that lead to the Freedom Rides and the Civil Rights Movement.

Lesson Two: *A Freedom Rider's Journey*

Students will learn about the 1961 Freedom Rides, the riders, the challenges faced along the way, the impact of the rides on the civil rights movement, and the nation's awareness of segregation in the south.

Lesson Three: *Who Makes a Movement?*

Through historic images and documents students will learn about the riders, the authorities, and everyday citizens who helped them.

Lesson Four: *Making Change Happen*

Discover and discuss the legacy of the Freedom Rides in Mississippi and the country: subsequent movements, integration in the South, and the effects on our life today.

Vocabulary List

List of terms covered in the Freedom Rides Lesson.

Evaluation

The teacher's lesson plan evaluation forms are located at the end of the document. Please take the time to fill them out and return them to the MDAH, Museum Division.

Further Reading

List of articles, Web sites, and books to read further on the Freedom Rides and the civil rights movement.

Bibliography

List of materials researched in preparation for this lesson.