

Lesson Four: *Making Change Happen*

Objective

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.

Materials: *Segregation to Integration: A Timeline* worksheet; and *Then and Now* worksheet (Level 1 – grades 4-8 & Level 2 – grades 9-12)

Activity One: *Segregation to Integration: A Timeline*

Work through the timeline worksheet to see changes over time. From slavery to integration how long did change take?

1. Hand-out and complete the *Segregation to Integration: A Timeline* worksheet. Have students use their note sheet and some basic math to fill in the blanks on the timeline.
2. Discuss the length of time it took for change to occur and the events that helped spur movements on. Have the students note that integration was not an overnight happening. As late as the 1970s, schools were just being integrated in Mississippi.
3. Students may refer to the PowerPoint if desired by teacher.
4. Optional activity *The Numbers Behind the Facts* is available to follow up the timeline.

Activity Two: *Freedom Ride Wrap Up*

After discovering the Freedom Rides and the people who took part in the journey, students will evaluate the success of them.

1. Discuss outcome of the Freedom Rides.
2. Have the students come to a consensus about whether or not the Freedom Rides were successful.

Activity Three: *Then and Now*

Students will compare situations from the 1950s to present day, analyzing the effects of the Civil Rights Movement on their lives today.

1. Have the students break into groups and hand out the *Then and Now* worksheet.
2. Discuss their answers as a class.

Extension Activities

Elementary: Have the students write a thank you note to the Freedom Riders.

High School: Have students research current events and identify where discrimination is still present today.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Segregation to Integration: A Timeline (Level 1)

Look for clues in the facts after the blanks. Do the math to find the answers to the timeline.

- 1862** – The *Emancipation Proclamation* freed slaves in states in open rebellion.
- 1865** – U.S. Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery.
- 1866** – Civil Rights Act attempts to grant U.S. citizenship to all native born Americans except Native Americans.
- 1868** – The Fourteenth Amendment finally grants African Americans citizenship and equal protection under the law.
- 1870** – The Fifteenth Amendment grants African American males the right to vote.
- 1875** – *Civil Rights Act* grants equal access to public accommodations.
- _____ – The U.S. Supreme Court nullifies the *Civil Rights Act of 1875* eight years after it was passed into law.
- 1884** – Mississippi native Ida B. Wells refuses to give up her seat on the train. She is forcibly removed.
- 1890** – Mississippi passes into law a new constitution that craftily disenfranchises the African Americans and is used as a model for other southern states.
- 1896** – U.S. Supreme Court validates “separate but equal” in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
- 1920** – The Nineteenth Amendment grants women the right to vote.
- _____ – Four years after women were given the right to vote, Native Americans become the last to be granted citizenship and the right to vote.
- _____ – Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) starts the *Journey of Reconciliation* rides to integrate U.S. transportation fourteen years before the Freedom Rides.
- 1948** – President Harry S. Truman ends segregation in the U.S. Military.
- _____ – African American Sarah Keys is arrested in North Carolina for refusing to move to the back of the bus sixty-eight years after Ida B. Wells’ train ride.
- 1954** – In *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* U.S. Supreme Court overturns “separate but equal.”
- _____ – Three years after Keys was arrested, the U.S. Supreme Court hands down its decision in *Sarah Keys v. the Carolina Coach Company* stating separate but equal ruling should not apply to bus travel across state lines.
- Rosa Parks sparks the Montgomery bus boycott when she is arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

- 1957** – President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends the U.S. Army to Little Rock to force the integration of Central High School.
 - Mississippi Sovereignty Commission produces films about segregation being wholesome and good.

- 1960** – U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* declares racial segregation in public transportation illegal under the *Interstate Commerce Act*. This included trains, buses, air travel, and the facilities in the stations and airports associated with them.
 - A national movement to integrate public facilities begins with sit-ins at lunch counters in North Carolina.

- 1961** – Integrated groups organized by CORE begin Freedom Rides across the south to challenge the segregation of transportation, stations, and facilities. Many are arrested and beaten. In Mississippi all are arrested and some serve time in Parchman Penitentiary.
 - African American James Meredith attempts to apply to the University of Mississippi and is refused twice.

- 1962** – The U.S. Supreme Court orders University of Mississippi to accept Meredith’s application.
 - Ross Barnett blocks Meredith’s admission to the University of Mississippi.
 - James Meredith enrolls at the University and entered the school amidst riots, enforced by the federal authorities. Escorted by the U.S. Justice Department attorney John Doar, James Meredith registers. The U.S. Army called in to quell riots.

- _____ – After nine years of inaction in states including Mississippi, the U.S. Supreme Court orders its 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision to be enforced with no delays.
 - African American citizens in Jackson, Mississippi, meet with the mayor to demand desegregation of the police force and facilities.
 - Tougaloo College students begin sit-ins in downtown Jackson that result in 50 arrests and the beatings of two individuals.
 - NAACP Jackson Field Secretary Medgar Evers is assassinated in his driveway.

- 1964** – A mistrial is declared in the Evers murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith.
 - Freedom Summer begins in Mississippi.

- _____ – Eleven years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the U.S. District judge orders Jackson public schools to speed up integration.
 - African American parents in the Madison County and Canton public school districts file a lawsuit seeking the end of segregation in those districts.

- 1968** – The U.S. Supreme Court rules all school districts must end segregation at once.
 - Sixteen years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling Mississippi schools are integrated.

- _____ – Thirty-one years after the Medgar Evers’ assassination, Byron De La Beckwith is convicted of his murder.

Segregation to Integration: A Timeline (Level 1)

Look for clues in the facts after the blanks. Do the math to find the answers to the timeline.

- 1862** – The *Emancipation Proclamation* freed slaves in states in open rebellion.
- 1865** – U.S. Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery.
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- 1868** – The Fourteenth Amendment finally grants African Americans citizenship and equal protection under the law.
- 1870** – The Fifteenth Amendment grants African American males the right to vote.
- 1875** – *Civil Rights Act* grants equal access to public accommodations
- 1883** – The U.S. Supreme Court nullifies the *Civil Rights Act of 1875* eight years after it was passed into law.
- 1884** – Mississippi native Ida B. Wells refuses to give up her seat on the train. She is forcibly removed.
- 1890** – Mississippi passes into law a new constitution that craftily disenfranchises the African Americans and is used as a model for other southern states.
- 1896** – U.S. Supreme Court validates “separate but equal” in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
- 1920** – The Nineteenth Amendment grants women the right to vote.
- 1924** – Four years after women were given the right to vote, Native Americans become the last to be granted citizenship and the right to vote.
- 1927** – Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) starts the *Journey of Reconciliation* rides to integrate U.S. transportation fourteen years before the Freedom Rides.
- 1948** – President Harry S. Truman ends segregation in the U.S. Military.
- 1952** – African American Sarah Keys is arrested in North Carolina for refusing to move to the back of the bus sixty-eight years after Ida B. Wells’ train ride.
- 1954** – In *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* U.S. Supreme Court overturns “separate but equal.”
- 1955** – Three years after Keys was arrested, the U.S. Supreme Court hands down its decision in *Sarah Keys v. the Carolina Coach Company* stating separate but equal ruling should not apply to bus travel across state lines.
 - Rosa Parks sparks the Montgomery bus boycott when she is arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

- 1957** – President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends the U.S. Army to Little Rock to force the integration of Central High School.
 - Mississippi Sovereignty Commission produces films about segregation being wholesome and good.
- 1960** – U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* declares racial segregation in public transportation illegal under the *Interstate Commerce Act*. This included trains, buses, air travel, and the facilities in the stations and airports associated with them.
 - A national movement to integrate public facilities begins with sit-ins at lunch counters in North Carolina.
- 1961** – Integrated groups organized by CORE begin Freedom Rides across the south to challenge the segregation of transportation, stations, and facilities. Many are arrested and beaten. In Mississippi all are arrested and some serve time in Parchman Penitentiary.
 - African American James Meredith attempts to apply to the University of Mississippi and is refused twice.
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 - Tougaloo College students begin sit-ins in downtown Jackson that result in 50 arrests and the beatings of two individuals.
 - NAACP Jackson Field Secretary Medgar Evers is assassinated in his driveway.
- 1964** – A mistrial is declared in the Evers murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith.
 - Freedom Summer begins in Mississippi.
- 1965** – Eleven years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the U.S. District judge orders Jackson public schools to speed up integration.
 - African American parents in the Madison County and Canton public school districts file a lawsuit seeking the end of segregation in those districts.
- 1968** – The U.S. Supreme Court rules all school districts must end segregation at once.
- 1970** – Sixteen years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling Mississippi schools are integrated.
- 1994** – Thirty-one years after the Medgar Evers’ assassination Byron De La Beckwith is convicted of his murder.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Segregation to Integration: A Timeline (Level 2)

Fill in the blanks. Research the missing information or look for clues and do the math to find the answers to the timeline.

1862 – The _____ freed slaves in states in open rebellion.

1865 – The 13th Amendment outlawing slavery is passed by U.S. Congress.

1865 – The Freedmen’s Bureau is formed to _____
– Ku Klux Klan founded.

1866 – Civil Rights Act attempts to grant U.S. citizenship to all native born Americans except Native Americans.

1868 – The 14th Amendment finally grants African Americans citizenship and equal protection under the law.

1870 – The 15th Amendment grants African American males the right to vote.

1875 – Civil Rights Act grants equal access to public accommodations.

_____ – Eight years later the U.S Supreme Court nullifies the *Civil Rights Act of 1875*.

1884 – _____ refused to give up her seat on the train, and is forcibly removed.

1890 – Mississippi passes into law a new constitution that craftily disenfranchises the African Americans and is used as a model for other southern states.

1896 – U.S. Supreme Court decision in _____ validates
“separate but equal.”

1909 – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is formed.

1915 – The Ku Klux Klan is re-formed.

1920 – The 19th Amendment grants _____ the right to vote.

_____ – Four years later Native Americans are granted citizenship and the right to vote.

1942 – Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) is formed.

1947 – CORE starts the _____ rides to integrate transportation in the U.S.

_____ – President Harry S. Truman ends segregation in the U.S. Military.

1952 – African American U.S. Women Army Corps (WAC) member, Sarah Keys is arrested in North Carolina for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

1954 – U.S. Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* overturns “separate but equal.”
– White Citizens Council, a private organization, is formed in Sunflower County, MS.

_____ – Three years after her arrest the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Sarah Keys v. the Carolina Coach Company* held the “separate but equal” ruling should not apply to bus travel across state lines.
– _____ sparks the Montgomery bus boycott when she is arrested for refusing to move to the back of the bus.

1956 – The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission is formed by the State of Mississippi.

1957 – President _____ sends the U.S. Army to Little Rock, AR to force the integration of the Central High School.

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed.
- Sovereignty Commission produces films about segregation being wholesome and good.

1960 – U.S. Supreme Court decision in _____ stated, racial segregation in public transportation is illegal under the Interstate Commerce Act. This included trains, buses, air travel, and the facilities in the stations and airports associated with them.

- A national movement to integrate public facilities begins with sit-ins at lunch counters in North Carolina.
- _____ (SNCC) is formed to work to end segregation.

_____ – Integrated groups organized by CORE begin Freedom Rides across the south to challenge the segregation of transportation, the stations, and facilities. Many are arrested and beaten. In Mississippi all are arrested and some serve time in Parchman Penitentiary.

- African American _____ attempts to apply to the University of Mississippi and is refused twice.

1962 – The U.S. Supreme Court orders University of Mississippi to accept Meredith's application.

- Ross Barnett blocks Meredith's admission to the University of Mississippi.
- With the assistance of the NAACP, James Meredith was enrolled at the University, but was barred from entering the school. He eventually entered amidst violent riots and enforced by the U.S. Federal Marshalls, U.S. Army MPs, Mississippi National Guard, and the U.S. Border Patrol.

1963 – The U.S. Supreme Court orders its 1954 school desegregation decision to be enforced with no delays.

- A group of black Jackson, Mississippi, citizens meet with the mayor to demand desegregation of the police force and facilities.
- _____ College students begin sit-ins in downtown Jackson that result in 50 arrests of college and high school students and the beatings of two individuals.
- NAACP Jackson Field Secretary Medgar Evers was assassinated in his driveway.
- Martin Luther King Jr. led the March for Racial Equality on Washington, D.C.

1964 – A mistrial is declared in the Evers murder trial of Byron De La Beckwith.

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1965 – U.S. District Judge orders Jackson public schools to speed up integration.

- Black parents in the Madison County and Canton public school districts file a lawsuit seeking the end of segregation in those districts.

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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Segregation to Integration: The Numbers Behind the Facts

Figure out the answers to the problems below.

1. In 1866 the Civil Rights Act attempted to, and the 14th Amendment in 1868 did, grant U.S. citizenship to all native born male Americans (with the exception of Native Americans). The total population of the United States was 31,443,321 in 1860. That meant 4,431,830 African Americans and 340,389 Native Americans were not considered citizens before 1866.

A. What percentage of the total population were not considered citizens in 1860?

B. What percentage were still not citizens in 1868?

2. In 1920 105,710,620 people lived in the United States. That same year some 51,790,820 of 51,810,189 women were finally given the right to vote.

A. What percentage of the total population was given the right to vote in 1920?

B. Men and women of what race were still not considered citizens and denied the right to vote?

3. The 1964 Freedom summer was an organized push to help African Americans register to vote for the 1964 elections. In 1960 only 525,000 of the 1,273,465 voting age Mississippians were registered to vote.

A. What percentage of voting age Mississippians were not registered to vote in 1960?

NAME: **KEY** DATE:

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A. What percentage of the total population were not considered citizens in 1860?

B. What percentage were still not citizens in 1868?

A.
$$\begin{array}{r} 4,431,830 \\ + \quad 340,389 \\ \hline 4,772,219 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{4,772,219}{31,443,321} = .1517$$

$$.1517 \times 100 = 15.17$$

15%

B.
$$\frac{340,389}{31,443,321} = .0108$$

$$.0108 \times 100 = 1.08$$

1.1%

2. In 1920 105,710,620 people lived in the United States. That same year some 51,790,820 of 51,810,189 women were finally given the right to vote.

A. What percentage of the total population was given the right to vote in 1920?

B. Men and women of what race were still not considered citizens and denied the right to vote?

A.
$$\frac{51,790,820}{105,710,620} = .4899$$

$$.4899 \times 100 = 48.99$$

49%

B. **Native Americans**

3. The 1964 Freedom summer was an organized push to help African Americans register to vote for the 1964 elections. In 1960 only 525,000 of the 1,273,465 voting age Mississippians were registered to vote.

A. What percentage of voting age Mississippians were not registered to vote in 1960?

A.
$$\begin{array}{r} 1,273,465 \\ - \quad 525,000 \\ \hline 748,465 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{748,465}{1,273,465} = .5877$$

$$.5877 \times 100 = 58.77$$

59%

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Then and Now

The Freedom Rides opened the door for other civil rights organizations and movements in Mississippi. The 1964 Freedom Summer would also test and change Mississippi and its citizens for the better. After learning about the Freedom Rides, think about the rights you have today and answer the questions below.

1. What would be different today if the Civil Rights Movement had not occurred? _____

2. What can everyone do today that would have been impossible 50 years ago? _____

3. Think of the impact of African American culture on American society today. Do you think that it would have such an impact if the civil rights movement had not occurred? Why?

4. If you had the chance to speak to the Freedom Riders what would you say or ask them?
