

Civil Rights in Mississippi

Online Teaching Unit

Students use a diverse array of educational tools to understand the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. This includes close readings of autobiographies, fiction, and informational texts; the use of primary sources such as newspaper articles, images, and interviews; multi-media components such as documentaries, feature films, and music; and research and writing projects of various lengths completed both as individuals and within groups. Throughout the unit students are encouraged to both analyze and question the persons and events of the civil rights era and make connections between the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s with those of minority groups today.

The *Civil Rights in Mississippi* lessons and handouts are adaptable for grades 9-12.

Objectives

- Using group brainstorming, historical fiction, and eyewitness interviews, students will gain an understanding of de jure and de facto segregation in Mississippi. They will also perform a close reading of an excerpt from Anne Moody's autobiography *Coming of Age in Mississippi* and (if time allows) compare it to Kathryn Stockett's fictional *The Help*.
- Research skills are developed by students as they use the Internet and Sovereignty Commission files to research Mississippi's major civil rights activists.
- Using primary sources such as newspaper articles and music, students will learn about the death of Emmett Till and the effect it had on Americans. After examining later examples of non-violent protests, student then write their own protest songs.
- Looking at civil rights through the lens of sports, students will use film documentaries to understand the integration of the University of Mississippi and other successful and unsuccessful attempts at integration around the state.
- Students will learn about the struggle of African Americans in Mississippi to gain the vote as well as those who helped them secure it, including the Freedom Summer Workers and Fannie Lou Hamer. Using a voter registration form from the 1950s, students will experience the difficulties of registering to vote as an African American in the 1960s.
- Students continue to explore Mississippi's separate but equal school system and understand how the issue of segregation impacted students into the 1970s and beyond. They will then create a class map and timeline showing the evolution of civil rights in Mississippi to the present day.

Mississippi Department of Education Curricular Connections

Lesson One: Black and White Worlds		
Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	RL1; RL4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L4
	Grades 11-12	RL1; RL4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L4
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 6b
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a; 4c; 4d; 7a
	African American Studies	1c; 7b; 7c

Lesson Two: Mississippi Civil Rights Timeline		
Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	W4; W7; W8; L1; L2; L4; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH9; WHST2
	Grades 11-12	W4; W7; W8; L1; L2; L4; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH9; WHST2
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 4b; 6b
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a; 4b; 4d
	Minority Studies	2a; 2c; 4a
	African American Studies	1c; 4c; 4d

Lesson Three: Protesting Violence without Violence		
Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	W4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L4; L5; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH8; RH9
	Grades 11-12	W4; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L4; L5; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH6; RH8; RH9
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 4b; 6b
	U.S. Government	7a
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a; 4b; 4c; 4d; 7a; 7c
	Minority Studies	2a; 2c; 4a
	African American Studies	1c; 4c; 4d; 5b; 7c

Lesson Four: Integrating Higher Education in Mississippi		
Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L3
	Grades 11-12	SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L3
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 4b; 4d; 6b
	U.S. Government	7a
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a; 4b; 4c; 4d; 7a; 7c
	Minority Studies	2a; 2c; 4a
	African American Studies	1c; 1d; 4c; 4d; 5b; 7c

Lesson Five: Mississippi in 1964, A Turning Point

Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	SL1; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L4; 5a; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH8
	Grades 11-12	SL1; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L4; 5a; RH1; RH2; RH3; RH4; RH5; RH8
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 4b; 6b
	U.S. Government	7a
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4a; 4b; 4c; 4d; 7a; 7c
	Minority Studies	2a; 2c; 4a
	African American Studies	1c; 1d; 4c; 4d; 5b; 7c

Lesson Six: Civil Rights After the Civil Rights Movement

Common Core Language Arts	Grades 9-10	W2; W4; W5; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3; L4; WHST2
	Grades 11-12	W2; W4; W5; W7; W8; SL1; SL2; SL3; SL4; SL5; SL6; L1; L2; L3; L4; WHST2
Mississippi Social Studies	Mississippi Studies	4a; 4b; 4c; 6b
	U.S. History from Post-Reconstruction to the Present	4; 7a; 7c
	Minority Studies	2a; 2c; 2d; 4a
	African American Studies	1c; 1d; 4c; 4d; 5b; 7c