

Freedom Now: The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi

Second edition. February 2019.

STUDENT READINGS

Part I: The Meaning of Freedom – Aftermath of Civil War to Jim Crow (1863-1940)

Selected Key Events	Selected Key People	Selected Key Terms
Reconstruction Act 1867 Jim Crow Era <i>Plessy vs. Ferguson</i> The Great Migration	Radical Republicans Ku Klux Klan Redeemers NAACP Booker T. Washington	Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments freedmen disenfranchisement white supremacy vagrancy

Part II: The Freedom Movement (1940-1962)

<i>Smith v. Alwright</i> <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> Little Rock Greensboro Lunch Counter Freedom Vote Freedom Summer 1964 Civil Rights Act	Citizen Councils Ella Baker Emmett Till SNCC and CORE activists Freedom Riders Bob Moses John F. Kennedy	social movement boycott sit in direct action Cold War freedom schools
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Part III: The Struggle Continues – Civil Rights Movement to Today (1962-2020)

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Voting Rights Act 1964 DNC in Atlantic City Black Power Movement	Fannie Lou Hamer Medgar Evers Lyndon B. Johnson Martin Luther King, Jr. James Meredith	self-determination political system redlining War on Poverty Poor People’s Campaign
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PRIORITIZING UNDER-REPRESENTED HISTORIES

- Highlights stories of collective power of individuals to change society.
- Demonstrates that the foundation of the civil rights movement was local activism and community organizing.
- Connects the interlocking economic, political, and social systems of the Jim Crow Era to current issues such as underfunding of public education, mass incarceration, and voter suppression.
- Highlights the pivotal role of women in SNCC.
- Evaluates compromise as an historical process in struggles for social justice by examining positions of attendees at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

Analyze data from *Plessy v. Ferguson*; later, compare outcomes of this Supreme Court case to the *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Examine primary source writings of Ida B. Wells on lynching.

Interpret song lyrics to understand music's role in the civil rights movement.

Compare and contrast viewpoints illuminated in primary sources of attendees at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Assess popular perceptions of the role of nonviolence in the movement through a close read of civil rights leaders' writings.

Identify continuity and change over time using a timeline of Black activism.

Synthesize material through a DBQ on the role of the federal government in the civil rights movement.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions. These selected videos highlight under-represented voices:

- [How did Black Southerners resist Jim Crow?](#)
- [Who was Ella Baker?](#)
- [What does the struggle for Black freedom look like today?](#)

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).