

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Subject: United States History

Grade: 11

NGSSS-SS: **SS.912.A.7.6-** Assess key figures and organizations in shaping the Civil Rights Movement.



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** After reading and analyzing the biographies of several female Civil Rights leaders, the students will complete a brief essay and bio-poem on a female Civil Rights leader.

Objective(s): The students will accomplish the following:

- Analyze the goals and accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Discuss the roles of key individuals, including women and minorities during major historical periods or events in United States history.
- Read biographies, legends, myths, tall tales, stories and poetry and listen to music that details the lives and times of heroes and ordinary people throughout United States history.

Materials:

- Textbooks/workbook/handouts
- Civil Rights songs (handout and/or transparency)
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons
- Magazine and/or web photo clippings

Duration: 1 Class Period

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. The teacher will explain how much of the organizing of the Civil Rights Movement took place in churches and was largely composed of women. Explain to the students that demonstrations were usually accompanied by the singing of freedom songs, many of which came from slave spirituals. Women did much of this singing.
2. Have the students either read or sing one or more freedom songs.
3. Have a class discussion over the meaning of the freedom song(s).

Activity 1:

1. Have a discussion with the students about injustices they see or their experiences in society today.
2. Have the students (either individually or in groups) write their own short freedom song addressing injustice that they see or experience today in a similar format to the way freedom songs were designed/structured (i.e. using metaphors).
3. Have the students present their own freedom songs.

4. Assign students to work with partners or in small groups to illustrate one of the major events.

5. Post student work after it is completed.

Activity 2:

1. Have the students read biographies of women involved in the Civil Rights Movement (either read them as a class or have each student silently read a biography on a particular woman involved in the Civil Rights Movement). Biographies can be found in the web links listed below.

2. Have students write a brief essay on the major contributions of a woman they studied.

3. Have the students write a bio-poem of one of the female Civil Rights leaders. The following can be used as an example:

Bio-Poem

Line 1 First name

Line 2 Four words that describe the person

Line 3 Son or daughter of ...

Line 4 Who believed in (one or more ideas)

Line 5 Who wanted (three things)

Line 6 Who gave (three things)

Line 7 Who used ...

Line 8 Who feels (three things)

Line 9 Who said (a quote)

Line 10 Last name

4. After the final draft, have the students write their poems either on a blank sheet of paper or construction paper. Have them decorate their poems with markers, colored pencils, crayons, magazine or web photo clippings, etc.

5. Post up assignments on the classroom wall/board.

Assessment:

Teacher observation and evaluation of student essays/poems. Check for historical accuracy as an indicator of comprehension. Consider giving grades for group cooperation and creativity.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions:

1. If the Civil Rights Movement was mainly composed of women, why do you think we hear much more of the male leaders involved?

2. Why do you suppose singing the freedom songs played such a huge role during the demonstrations?

3. Much of the freedom songs came from old slave spirituals. If slavery had been long over with, why would you suppose these songs were chosen?

Suggested Books

In Lesson: Crawford, V. L. et. all (1993) Women in the Civil Rights Movement, Indiana University Press.

Web Resources: Biographies

Rosa Parks: <http://www.biography.com/people/rosa-parks-9433715>

Ella Baker: <http://www.ibiblio.org/sncc/baker.html>

Fannie Lou Hamer: <http://www.ibiblio.org/sncc/hamer.html>

Pauli Murray: <http://www.ncwriters.org/services/lhof/inductees/pmurray.htm>

Daisy Bates: http://www.upress.state.ms.us/catalog/fall2005/daisy_bates.html

History of Women in the Civil Rights Movement

<http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1997/3/97.03.10.x.html>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9862643/>

<http://www.jwa.org/discover/inthepast/infocus/civilrights/>

We Shall Not Be Moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

We're fighting for our rights {and}
we shall not be moved
We're fighting for our rights and
we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

We shall all be free {and}
we shall not be moved
We shall all be free {and}
we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

God is on our side {and}
we shall not be moved
God is on our side {and}
we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

Black and White together
we shall not be moved
Black and White together
we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We shall not-ot be moved.

I'm Gonna Sit At The Welcome Table

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days,
Hallelujah!
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

I'm gonna walk the streets of glory,
I'm gonna walk the streets of glory one of these days,
Hallelujah!
I'm gonna walk the streets of glory,
I'm gonna walk the streets of glory one of these days.

I'm gonna get my civil rights,
I'm gonna get my civil rights one of these days,
Hallelujah!
I'm gonna get my civil rights,
I'm gonna get my civil rights one of these days.

I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter,
I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter one of these days,
Hallelujah!
I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter,
I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter one of these days.

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace
We shall live in peace someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We shall brothers be, we shall brothers be
We shall brothers be someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

The truth shall make us free, truth shall make us free
The truth shall make us free someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We are not afraid, we are not afraid
We are not afraid today
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

If You Miss Me At The Back Of The Bus

(adapted from the song composed by C. Neblett)

If you miss me at the back of the bus
If you can't find me back there
Come on up to the front of the bus
I'll be sittin right there
I'll be sittin right there
Come on up to the front of the bus
I'll be sittin right there

If you can't find me in the school room
If you can't find me in there
Come on out to the picket line
I'll be standin right there
I'll be standin right there
Come on out to the picket line
I'll be standin right there

If you can't find me in the picket line
If you can't find me out there
Come on down to the jail house
I'll be singin in there
I'll be singin in there
Come on down to the jail house
I'll be singin in there

If you can't find me in jail house
If you don't see me in there
Come on over to the church yard
I'll be prayin out there
I'll be prayin out there
Come on over to the church yard
I'll be prayin out there

Oh, Freedom

Oh, Freedom
Oh-o freedom.
Oh-o freedom
Oh freedom over me,
(Over me.)
And before I be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free.
(and be free.)

No segregation
No segregation
No more segregation
Over me
(Over me)
And before I be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free.
(and be free.)

No more weepin
No more weepin
No more weepin
Over me
(Over me)
And before I be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free.
(and be free.)

No more tommin
No more tommin
No more tommin
Out of me
(Out of me)
And before I be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free.
(and be free.)

Oh-o freedom.
Oh-o freedom
Oh freedom over me,
(Over me.)

Lift Every Voice And Sing

(composed by James Weldon Johnson)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Aint Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

Aint gonna let nobody
turn me 'roun
turn me 'roun
Aint gonna let nobody
turn me roun
I'm gonna keep on walkin'
keep on talkin
walkin into freedom land

Aint gonna let (name a prominent segregationist)
turn me 'roun
turn me 'roun
Aint gonna let (repeat name)
turn me 'roun
I'm gonna keep on walkin'
keep on talkin
walkin into freedom land

Aint gonna let no jailhouse
turn me 'roun
turn me 'roun
Aint gonna let no jailhouse
turn me 'roun
I'm gonna keep on walkin'
keep on talkin
walkin into freedom land

Aint gonna let no policemen
turn me 'roun
turn me 'roun
Aint gonna let no policemen
turn me round
I'm gonna keep on walkin'
keep on talkin
walkin' into freedom land

Certainly Lord

Do you want your freedom?

"Certainly, Lord"

Do you want your freedom?

"Certainly, Lord"

Do you want your freedom?

"Certainly, Lord"

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly Lord

Will you march for your rights?

"Certainly, Lord"

Will you march for your rights?

"Certainly, Lord"

Will you march for your rights?

"Certainly, Lord"

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord

Will you go to jail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Will you go to jail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Will you go to jail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord

Jail over bail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Jail over bail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Jail over bail?

"Certainly, Lord"

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord