The Children of Birmingham 1963

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Letter from Birmingham Jail

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

Grade 6 interdisciplinary Research Simulation Task
Essential question
How did young people and King’s written argument challenge segregation and demands to wait?

NJSLS Social Studies

6.3.8.CivicsPI.4 examines civic organizations. 6.3.8.CivicsPD.3 connects facts, perspectives, and civic action. 6.3.8.CivicsPR.3 evaluates competing civic principles.

NJSLS English Language Arts

RI.CR.6.1 supports analysis with evidence. RI.AA.6.7 evaluates claims and reasoning. RI.MF.6.6 integrates visual and quantitative information. W.AW.6.1 develops evidence based arguments.

CCLS literacy connections

RH.6–8.1 cites evidence. RH.6–8.2 identifies central ideas. RH.6–8.7 integrates visual information. WHST.6–8.1 writes arguments. These are literacy connections rather than additional New Jersey standards.

Interdisciplinary and Amistad alignment

History and civics examine African American agency and resistance to segregation. Geography examines place and movement. Mathematics interprets ratios and percentages. Science literacy distinguishes observations from explanations of force. These activities support Amistad instruction through evidence, community organizing, and the struggle for equal rights.

Day 1 A City and a Movement

Do Now

What makes a rule fair? Explain one criterion.

Source A Historical context

Birmingham, Alabama, was a center of the struggle against segregation, the enforced separation of people by race. Local Black residents organized before national leaders arrived. Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights joined with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the Birmingham Campaign. The campaign began April 3, 1963. Demonstrations and a boycott challenged segregated businesses. Organizers used the Easter shopping season to increase economic pressure. A boycott meant refusing purchases to press for change. [1]

Quick Write

Explain how a boycott connects an economic decision to a civic goal.