The Civics of the Civil Rights Movement

Grade 6 interdisciplinary RST | Five lessons of 40 minutes

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

NJSLS Social Studies

6.3.8.CivicsPI.4 Investigate how civic and political organizations shape lives.

NJSLS ELA

RI.CR.6.1 Support analysis with textual evidence. W.AW.6.1 Write supported arguments.

CCLS

RH.6-8.1 Cite evidence. RH.6-8.9 Compare sources. WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments.

Interdisciplinary connections

CCSS 6.RP.A.3 Use ratios and percentages. NGSS MS-ETS1-1 Define a design problem with criteria and constraints.

Amistad alignment

Examine African American agency, resistance, institutions, and contributions to democracy.

Essential question

How did different strategies challenge unequal power and expand meaningful citizenship?

Directions

Read Sources A through E. Complete each Do Now and Quick Write beside its reading. Use source letters as evidence. Complete 15 questions and a RACE response. Digital text boxes allow up to 1,000 characters each.

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Day 1 Medgar Wiley Evers and organized citizenship

Do Now

What can prevent someone from using a right that exists on paper?

Source A Historical synthesis based on the National Park Service

Medgar Wiley Evers served as the NAACP's first Mississippi field secretary from 1954 to 1963. He helped build local chapters and organized voter registration, demonstrations, and boycotts. His work connected individual complaints to an organization able to investigate discrimination and seek change. He was assassinated on June 12, 1963.

Evers documented barriers to registration and communicated evidence to federal officials. The problem was not simply whether a right appeared in the Constitution. Local officials and intimidation could obstruct participation. Gathering testimony and recording patterns helped expose the difference between a promised right and access to that right. Youth organizing also helped develop future movement workers.

Civics lens Institutions and enforcement

An organization can turn an isolated experience into a public issue. A complaint identifies a harm. Evidence shows its pattern. A petition asks a responsible official to act. Enforcement determines whether a protection reaches the people it is supposed to protect. Citizens can therefore influence government between elections as well as at the ballot box.

Quick Write

Explain how documenting discrimination could help change government action. Cite Source A.

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