

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity64>

Engage

What was the relationship between white Americans and African Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries? (Historical context)

- Click on the URL above to open the Story Map (with built-in interactive maps). A Map journal will open and provide a summary of the map. Scroll down to get started.
- Read through the first section titled *Historical context*. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ? What states were considered 'southern states.' Hint: Click the states on the map.
[Southern states included: Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.]
- Read the excerpt of the Emancipation Proclamation and answer the source questions below.
- ? What is the main purpose of the Emancipation Proclamation? Refer to direct evidence to support your response. *[President Lincoln's primary purpose in delivering the Emancipation Proclamation is to decree that, "all persons held as slaves within any State...shall then be...forever free."]*
- ? President Lincoln refers to "slaves within said designated States." What states is he referring to? *[The American Civil War was fought between the Northern and Southern states. It stands to reason that Lincoln is referring to slave-owning states, like Alabama and Georgia, in his address.]*
- ? Other than perhaps a genuine interest to abolish slavery, is there any other motive President Lincoln may have had to abolish slavery? Use evidence from the excerpt to support your response. *[President Lincoln may have other motives to abolish slavery. America was in a state of civil war and men were always needed to reinforce the armed services of the northern states. This is supported in the excerpt when Lincoln states, "I further declare...that such persons [black Americans] of a suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison*

Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time

60 minutes

Activity

Investigate the key events, individuals and outcomes of the U.S. civil rights movement.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Understand 18th and 19th century relationships between white and black Americans
- Identify key events, individuals and outcomes of the civil rights movement
- Understand the spatial distribution of the civil rights movement in America
- Examine and analyse literary and visual sources

ACARA Curriculum Link

Year 10 History: Rights and freedoms (1945 – the present)

[ACDSEH105](#) | [ACHHS182](#) |
[ACHHS183](#) | [ACHHS187](#) |
[ACHHS190](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

forts, positions, stations and other places.” Such an incentive may have encouraged black slaves to make attempts of escape in order to fight their oppressors.]

- Scroll down to the heading *Segregation*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.

Explore

What were some key events that kickstarted the US Civil Rights Movement?

- Scroll down to the heading *Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- Scroll down to the heading *Little Rock Nine*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- ? Examine the image of Elizabeth Eckford walking to school. Describe the surrounding crowd’s attitude by referring to their facial expressions and body language. *[The crowd surrounding her appears to be extremely hostile and agitated. This is clearly evident in the facial expression of the female student/woman screaming abuse at her from behind. The body language of the crowd reflects a ‘strength-in-numbers’ mentality, likely hoping that their overwhelming numbers will scare Elizabeth from attending Central High School.]*
- Scroll down to the heading *1961 Freedom Rides*. Read the information. Take notes if required. Stop to discuss as necessary.
- Engage with the map by exploring the route of the Freedom Rides.
 1. Beginning in Washington D.C., track the original Freedom Riders’ journey by clicking on each **red** pin to read about what happened at each stage of the journey. You will need to zoom in on Birmingham, Alabama in order to click on the red pin. You should end at New Orleans.
 2. After you finish exploring the red route, reposition your map to Nashville and explore the second Freedom Ride - occurring immediately after the first - by clicking on the **orange** pins. Zoom in for this route as you will notice that there were several stops in Birmingham, Alabama.

Explain

What role did Martin Luther King Jr. play in the culmination of the civil rights movement?

- ➔ Scroll down to the heading titled *March on Washington* and read the information. Take notes if required. Discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Read the excerpt of Dr King's "I Have a Dream" speech and answer the questions below:
- ? Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech was made in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Explain the significance of this. *[The Lincoln Memorial, a giant statue of President Lincoln, is a significant place for Dr King's speech as Lincoln himself was responsible for improving the lives of black Americans when he abolished slavery in his Emancipation Proclamation. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists spoke in front of this memorial, continuing the work Lincoln started.]*
- ? Explain the purpose of King's repetition of the phrase, "I have a dream." *[Martin Luther King Jr. repeats this phrase in order to reinforce the main point of his message. Dr King attempts to acknowledge that there is systemic inequality and hatred in America but communicates that he is hopeful of a future where equality between white and black America exist. It is this hope that his audience should be working towards too.]*
- ? Why does Martin Luther King Jr. reference Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama in this excerpt? What is he welcoming these states to do? *[Martin Luther King Jr. addresses some of the states that have the worst track records of black segregation and persecution, calling them out. However, he also invites them to be a part of the healing process as seen in the statement, "I have a dream...that one day...in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."]*
- ➔ Scroll down to the heading titled *Civil Rights Act 1964* and read the information. Take notes if required. Discuss as necessary.
- ➔ Scroll down to the heading titled *Voting Rights Act of 1965* and read the information. Take notes if required. Discuss as necessary.

Extend

How did the civil rights era draw to a close?

- ➔ Scroll down to the heading titled *Civil Rights Leaders assassinated* and read the

information. Take notes if required. Discuss as necessary.

- Scroll down to the heading titled *Fair Housing Act* and read the information. Take notes if required. Discuss as necessary.
- ? Observe the map. Explain why spatial distribution of key events exists in this area.
[Key events occurred primarily in the south and south-west of the United States of America. It likely occurred here as segregation, persecution and racism was deeply rooted in these states.]
- ? In your opinion, what was the most notable event during this movement? Justify your response. *[Student answers will vary.]*
- ? Consider Dr King's assassination in 1968. Despite a number of successes in the civil rights movement, explain what perspectives still existed. *[Although there had been large successes achieved in the civil rights movement, Dr King's assassination is evidence that perspectives of hatred, opposition, fear and discrimination were clearly still in existence.]*

Next Steps:

Request a free ArcGIS Online Account for your school:

Australian schools can request a free ArcGIS Online account as part of Esri Australia's Classroom GIS Initiative. A school subscription provides additional map layers, content, features and privacy.

Learn more about ArcGIS Online, and apply for your ArcGIS Online School subscription at <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education>