

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Civil Rights -Historical Perspectives
From Kevin Mariano

Grade 11 (US History - Civil Rights Movement)

[Prior to administering this lesson, the students should be familiar with the following topics:
Brown v. Board of Education, Montgomery Bus Boycott, March on Washington, Freedom Summer]

Length of class period 84 minutes

Inquiry – How do the insights of individuals affect our collective picture of history?

Objectives

Students will develop a profile of a historical figure from the Civil Rights era
Students will role play their historical figure in a whole group discussion

Materials

Jackie Robinson: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/jackie-robinson/quotes.html>

Thurgood Marshall: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/civil%20rights%20quotes.htm>
<http://www.qotd.org/search/search.html?aid=6715>

Emmett Till: (from a sermon by Rev. Robert Fritts, January 11, 2003)
<http://www.cedarlane.org/03serms/s030111.html>

Rosa Parks: http://womenshistory.about.com/od/quotes/a/rosa_parks.htm

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.

Lyndon Baines Johnson:

http://thinkexist.com/quotation/until_justice_is_blind_to_color_until_education/213823.html

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/civil%20rights%20quotes.htm>
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=3087021>

James Peck: <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAfreesR.htm>
<http://reportingcivilrights.loa.org/authors/bio.jsp?authorId=58>
<http://www.celinaschools.org/socialstudies/Biographies/James%20Peck.pdf>

Huey Newton:

<http://thinkexist.com/quotation/my-fear-was-not-of-death-itself-but-a-death/379180.html>
<http://www.quotesstar.com/people/occupations/activists/huey-p-newton-quotes.html>
http://www.bookrags.com/quotes/Huey_P_Newton
<http://www.biography.com/articles/Huey-P.-Newton-37369>

Malcolm X:

http://www.africawithin.com/malcolmx/malcolm_bio.htm

http://thinkexist.com/quotation/we_declare_our_right_on_this_earth_to_be_a_human/148539.html

Elizabeth Eckford (One of nine AA students who integrated into an all white high school)

<http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=721>

<http://classrooms.psd3.org/education/components/sectionlist/default.php?sectiondetailid=22837&&PHPSESSID=c82a5b>

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-29-Littlerock_N.htm

George Wallace (Governor of Alabama)

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/g/george_c_wallace.html

http://www.biographybase.com/biography/Wallace_George.html

Activities

1. Each student (or no more than a group of two) will represent one of the historical figures listed below.

- Jackie Robinson (First AA professional baseball player)
- Thurgood Marshall (First AA member of the Supreme Court)
- Emmett Till (14 year old AA boy from Chicago; brutally murdered in 1955 by two white men) (there are no quotes by Emmett, however, his mother, Mamie, wrote *Death of Innocence*, 2004).
- Rosa Parks (Refused to move to the back of the bus for a white man)
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Civil Rights Activist)
- President Lyndon B. Johnson (President of the USA)
- James Peck (Freedom Rider, white, male)
- Huey Newton (Black Panther co-founder)
- Malcolm X (Civil Rights Activist)
- Elizabeth Eckford (One of nine AA students who integrated into an all white high school)
- George Wallace (Governor of Alabama)

2. Read the transcript (biography, quotes) on the page and research your person in your text book.

3. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (you will use these questions during the discussion). In the question, the “YOU” is the historical person such as “Jackie Robinson.”

- a. Who are you? What did you do?
- b. What is your view on civil rights?
- c. Describe how you would react if you saw an African American man getting beaten up by three white men.

- d. If you were going to protest, would you be more apt to do so peacefully or violently?
 - e. If you were jailed for protesting, how might you react?
 - f. In your personal opinion (as a student), what responsibilities does an ordinary person have to stop injustice in his or her community?
 - g. In the modern day, what challenges still face the nation in the area of civil rights?
4. Students create a NAME TAG, also have picture of their individual taped to the end of their desk, and move the desks into a circle.
 5. The teacher leads the discussion, first by having each individual introduce themselves (as the historical figure, not as the student) and the teacher can prompt any of the prepared questions above. It seems to be more appealing to start off "easy" with questions A and B to help the students get acclimated with the environment. As the discussion gains momentum, feel free to break away from the questions to craft debates. Remind the students to stay in character at all times, even if they do not agree with their character's perspective. All students must speak at least once (even if in a group of two). To avoid too many voices at once, throw a ball around to the speaker (as long as this is not a distraction).

Assessment

Write a two to three page response answering the following questions:

→Based on your previous knowledge, the content of this unit, and today's lesson, how do the insights of individuals affect our collective picture of history? How can/did individual historical perspectives impact your understanding of your collective picture of history?

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards

1.2 – Trace the evolution of citizens' rights

1.9 – Assess the significance of the evolving heterogeneity of American society

Jackie Robinson

Bio: Baseball player, civil rights activist. Born Jack Roosevelt Robinson on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Breaking the color barrier, **Jackie Robinson** became the first African-American to play in baseball's major leagues. The youngest of five children, Robinson was raised in relative poverty by a single mother. He attended John Muir High School and Pasadena Junior College, where he was an excellent athlete and played four sports: football, basketball, track, and baseball. He was named the region's Most Valuable Player in baseball in 1938. Died in 1972.

QUOTES

Baseball was just a part of my life. Thank God that I didn't allow a sport or a business or any part of my life to dominate me completely. . . . I felt that I had my time in athletics and that was it.

The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time.

I don't think that I or any other Negro, as an American citizen, should have to ask for anything that is rightfully his. We are demanding that we just be given the things that are rightfully ours and that we're not looking for anything else.

I guess you'd call me an independent, since I've never identified myself with one party or another in politics. . . . I always decide my vote by taking as careful a look as I can at the actual candidates and issues themselves, no matter what the party label.

Civil rights is not by any means the only issue that concerns me--nor, I think any other Negro. As Americans, we have as much at stake in this country as anyone else. But since effective participation in a democracy is based upon enjoyment of basic freedoms that everyone else takes for granted, we need make no apologies for being especially interested in catching up on civil rights.

I won't 'have it made' until the most underprivileged Negro in Mississippi can live in equal dignity with anyone else in America.

Life is not a spectator sport. . . . If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life.

It is up to us in the north to provide aid and support to those who are actually bearing the brunt of the fight for equality down south. America has its iron curtain too.

Negroes aren't seeking anything which is not good for the nation as well as ourselves. In order for America to be 100 per cent strong--economically, defensively, and morally--we cannot afford the waste of having second-and-third class citizens.

I believe in the goodness of a free society. And I believe that society can remain good only as long as we are willing to fight for it--and to fight against whatever imperfections may exist.

JACKIE ROBINSON



Thurgood Marshall

Bio: born July 2, 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland – died January 24th, 1993 in Bethesda, Maryland. Lawyer, civil rights activist, and associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (1967-1991), the first African American member of the Supreme Court. As an attorney, he successfully argued before the US Supreme Court the case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954), which declared unconstitutional racial segregation in American Public Schools.

Quotes:

- “The United States has been called the melting pot of the world. But it seems to me that the colored man either missed getting into the pot or he got melted down.”
- A child born to a black mother in a state like Mississippi ... has the same rights as a white baby born to the wealthiest person in the United States. It's not true, but I challenge anyone to say it is not a goal worth working for.
- Ending racial discrimination in jury selection can be accomplished only by eliminating peremptory challenges entirely.
- Even if all parties approach the court's mandate with the best of conscious intentions,... that mandate requires them to confront and overcome their own racism on all levels — a challenge I doubt all of them can meet.
- I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust.... We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.
- In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.
- Lawlessness is lawlessness. Anarchy is anarchy is anarchy. Neither race nor color nor frustration is an excuse for either lawlessness or anarchy.

- Sometimes history takes things into its own hands.

Thurgood Marshall



En

Emmett Till

**A Sermon Given
by Rev. Roger Fritts
on January 11, 2003
at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Bethesda, Maryland**

In August of 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till took the train from Chicago to the cotton rich Mississippi delta to spend the last few days of summer vacation with his Uncle. About eight in the evening of Wednesday, August 24, 1955, he entered a grocery store in the small town of Money, Mississippi. The few eyewitness accounts differ, so we will never know the details of what happened. Some reports say that because Emmett has been bragging about his friendships with white girls in Chicago, his southern cousins dared him to go into the grocery and say something to the 21-year-old white woman working the register alone. One cousin, who was with Emmett that night, denied that they had dared him.

What happened will always be disputed. According to some accounts Emmett said nothing until he was leaving the store. Then he turned and said goodbye to the woman behind the counter. He may have stuttered. The boy had polio when he was younger and had struggled with stuttering in the years after his illness. He may have whistled. His mother had taught him to whistle if he found himself stuttering. Whistling apparently stopped the stuttering and made it possible for Emmett to get his words out. Some reports say that outside the building as Emmett was walking away he gave a wolf-whistle that was heard by some African American men playing checkers on the porch.

That week Carolyn Bryant's 24-year-old husband, Roy, was on a trip to Texas to deliver shrimp. According to an account published in *Look* magazine, Mrs. Bryant told a woman friend, and they decided to keep the incident from their husbands. According to this account, when Roy Bryant got back from Texas on Friday an African American told him a story about what had happened. Roy asked Carolyn and she confirmed the story.

At 2:00 A.M. Sunday morning Roy Bryant and his 36-year-old half brother J.W. Milam, drove to the cabin where Emmett Till was staying with his Uncle. According to them, there was no one else with them in the truck. According to Emmett Till's uncle someone else was in the cab of the truck. This someone else was had a voice like a woman and said "That's him," when Bryant and Milam took Emmett out to the cab of the truck.

They drove off with the boy. According to the story they told a reporter from *Look* Magazine, Bryant and Milam intended only to frighten and beat Emmett Till. They drove around that August night looking for a bluff on the Mississippi river where they planned to whip the 14-year-old with a colt .45 pistol, and scare the boy by leading him to think they were going to throw him in the Mississippi River.

They said they could not find the bluff and after three hours they gave up and drove to Milan's house where they smashed Emmett across the head with the pistol. Then they left the house and drove to the

Progressive Cotton Ginning Company. They got a discarded fan, three feet high weighting about 75 pounds. They drove to an isolated spot on the Tallahatchie River. Here they made 14-year-old Emmett Till remove his clothing. They shot him in the head with the pistol. Using Barb-wire they tied the gin fan around the boy's neck and rolled him into the water. They took his clothing home and burned it.

Other witnesses dispute some of the details of this story. Two African Americans testified at the trial that they saw Till being driven into J.W. Milan's barn and heard human screams coming from the barn. These witnesses said that they saw two African American men holding Till in the back of the bed of the truck to keep him from escaping and that later they saw the truck leave the barn with something in the back covered by a tarp. Some witnesses say that there were four, not two white men in the cab of the truck.

The body was discovered, with the feet floating up out of the water, on August 31. Several terrible deaths of black people occurred in Mississippi during this time. Most of these were ignored by the national press. However the press did focus a great deal of attention on the killing of Emmett Till. The story was told on the front page of newspapers throughout the nation.

"Negro Youth, Kidnapped, Slain in Mississippi"

"Negro, 14, Called Insulter, is Pulled from River Dead"

"Muddy River Gives up Body of Brutally Slain Negro Boy"

Emmett Till's family was able to intervene and stop a local sheriff from burying the child in a Mississippi grave. The body was shipped by train back to Chicago, where a three-day open coffin viewing was held. "Let them see what they have done to my boy," said Emmett's mother. Photos of the boy's distorted face appeared in newspapers across the nation.

Roy Bryant and his half brother were arrested and charged with murder. According to some reports, it was the first time in Mississippi history that two white men had ever been arrested and tried for the murder of a black man. The trial lasted a week, from Monday, September 19, to Friday, September 23. During the trial there were rumors that two back men had witnessed the killing and were being hidden in a jail in another town so that they could not be called to testify.

Seventy reporters and thirty photographers came from all over the world to cover the trial. Black reporters were required to set in a segregated area, and were searched each day when they entered the court room. Whites were not searched. The defendants sat with their wives and their little children during the trial.

The jury of twelve white men deliberated for an hour and seven minutes. They would have come back sooner, one report said, but they needed time to finishing drinking their cokes. The verdict was **not guilty**. Bryant and Milam lit up cigars after the verdict was announced. A few months later both men freely confessed to a reporter from *Look* Magazine that they had killed Emmet Till, knowing that having been found not guilty they could not be tried for murder again. Grand juries refused to indict the men for kidnapping.

EMMETT TILL



Rosa Parks:

Bio: (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was an African American civil rights activist whom the U.S. Congress later called the "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement."

- I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people.
- The only tired I was, was tired of giving in. (*on refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white male*)
- I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move.
- Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it.
- I didn't want to pay my fare and then go around the back door, because many times, even if you did that, you might not get on the bus at all. They'd probably shut the door, drive off, and leave you standing there.
- My only concern was to get home after a hard day's work.
- I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.
- Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.
- I do the very best I can to look upon life with optimism and hope and looking forward to a better day, but I don't think there is anything such as complete happiness. It pains me that there is still a lot of Klan activity and racism. I think when you say you're happy, you have everything that you need and everything that you want, and nothing more to wish for. I haven't reached that stage yet.

Rosa Parks



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

About him: (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. Led the African-American drive for equal civil rights. His non-violent methods were influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and were embraced by a majority of his constituents. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

- All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality.
- Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.
- Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.
- I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.
- It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important.
- Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.
- Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.
- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
- Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars... Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.
- We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.
- Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human

conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

- Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'
- ...And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man.

Martin Luther King Jr., *Speech in Memphis, April 3, 1968, the day before King was assassinated*

- The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.
- *Dr. King on Malcolm X:*
"You know, right before he was killed he came down to Selma and said some pretty passionate things against me, and that surprised me because after all it was my territory there. But afterwards he took my wife aside, and said he thought he could help me more by attacking me than praising me. He thought it would make it easier for me in the long run."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Lyndon Baines Johnson

Bio: August 27, 1908 – January 22, 1973, Democrat, 36th President, Took over immediately after JFK was assassinated President of the United States from 1963 to 1969

View on Civil Rights: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a bill that changed the face of America. It opened all public accommodations — hotels, restaurants, swimming pools — to all Americans regardless of race, color, religion or national origin.

The bill also ended legal discrimination in employment on the basis of race or sex, and established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce the law. The signing ceremony represented a personal triumph for Johnson, who lobbied tirelessly on behalf of the bill. Recordings of the president's phone conversations reveal his relentless campaign to wrangle lawmakers in favor of the controversial bill.

QUOTES

“Until justice is blind to color, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with the color of men's skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact.”

"This administration here and now declares unconditional war on poverty in America." **State of the Union message 8th January 1964.**

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men." **Speech, Washington D.C. 6th August 1965**

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON



James Peck (Freedom Rider)

Bio: (December 19, 1914-July 12, 1993) He was a pacifist committed to justice and peace. Joined Congress of Racial Equality in 1946; arrested with Bayard Rustin in Durham, North Carolina, during Journey of Reconciliation. Also participated in CORE Freedom Rides in 1961; beaten by mob in Birmingham, Alabama. Published *Freedom Ride* (1962) about his experiences. Served as editor of *CORElator* for 17 years; organized many civil rights protests. Demonstrated against nuclear tests and Vietnam War; arrested in 1971 May Day demonstration in Washington. Died in Minneapolis.

He participated in one of the first major civil rights protests. He also took part in a two-week bus ride through the South known as the Journey of Reconciliation. Eight black men and eight white men traveled together to test the Supreme Court ruling that declared segregation in interstate travel unconstitutional. Southern officials did not enforce the Court's ruling, and Peck and others were beaten and arrested during the ride.

In 1961, when Peck was serving as editor for the newsletter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), he took part in the Freedom Rides. These rides, like the Journey of Reconciliation, were designed to test whether blacks and whites could travel together across state lines. The buses were attacked in Alabama, and Peck was beaten once again. More than 20 years later, he won a \$25,000 lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) because the agency had been warned of possible violence but did not protect the Freedom Riders.

Quote from his book, *Freedom Rider* (1962)

“When the Greyhound bus pulled into Anniston, it was immediately surrounded by an angry mob armed with iron bars. They set about the vehicle, denting the sides, breaking windows, and slashing tires. Finally, the police arrived and the bus managed to depart. But the mob pursued in cars. Within minutes, the pursuing mob was hitting the bus with iron bars. The rear window was broken and a bomb was hurled inside. All the passengers managed to escape before the bus burst into flames and was totally destroyed. Policemen, who had been standing by, belatedly came on the scene. A couple of them fired into the air. The mob dispersed and the injured were taken to a local hospital.”

James Peck (Freedom Rider)



Huey Newton

(Co-founder of the Black Panthers)

Bio: Social activist. Born Huey Percy Newton on February 17, 1942, in Monroe, Louisiana. Newton helped establish the controversial African American political organization, The Black Panther Party. Founded in 1966, they called their group The Black Panther Party for Self Defense. Unlike many of the other social and political organizers of the time, they took a militant stance, advocating the ownership of guns by African Americans, and were often seen brandishing weapons. The group believed that violence—or the threat of violence—might be needed to bring about social change. They set forth their political goals in a document called the Ten-Point Program, which included better housing, jobs, and education for African Americans. It also called for an end to economic exploitation of black communities. Still the organization itself was not afraid to punctuate its message with a show of force. For example, to protest a gun bill in 1967, Newton and other members of the Panthers entered the California Legislature fully armed. The action was a shocking one that made news across the country. And Newton emerged as a leading figure in the black militant movement.

The Black Panthers wanted to improve life in black communities and established social programs to help those in need. They also fought against police brutality in black neighborhoods by mostly white cops. Members of the group would go to arrests in progress and watch for abuse. Newton himself was arrested in 1967 for allegedly killing an Oakland police officer during a traffic stop. He was later convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2 to 15 years in prison. But public pressure—“Free Huey” became a popular slogan of the day—helped Newton’s cause. The case was eventually dismissed after two retrials ended with hung juries.

In the 1970s, the Black Panthers began to fall apart. Key members left, and Newton faced more criminal charges. To avoid prosecution, he fled to Cuba in 1971, but he returned three years later. With the Panthers in disarray, Newton returned to school, earning a Ph.D. from University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1980. In his final years, however, it is believed that he suffered from a drug problem. The once popular revolutionary died on August 22, 1989, in Oakland, California, after being shot on the street.

Quotes: “Sometime if you want to get rid of the gun, you have to pick the gun up.”

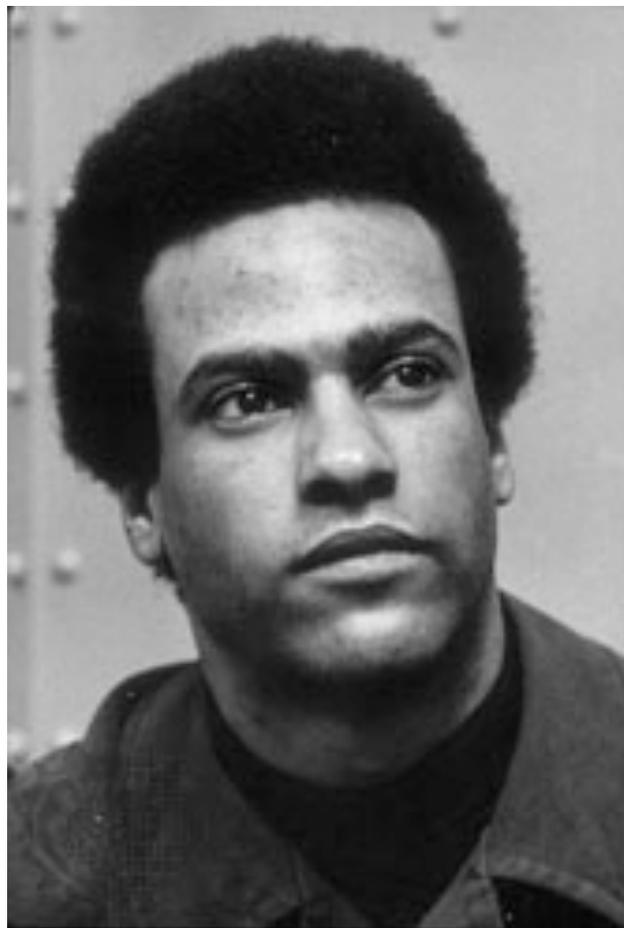
“If you stop struggling, then you stop life.”

“The revolution has always been in the hands of the young. The young always inherit the revolution.”

Any unarmed people are slaves, or are subject to slavery at any given moment.

To stop a war, you must start one.

Huey Newton



Malcolm X

Bio: Born Malcolm Little in . May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. His father was a proponent of Garveyism. Malcolm converted to the Muslim religious organization the Nation of Islam and studied the teachings of Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad. Muhammad taught that white society actively worked to keep African-Americans from empowering themselves and achieving political, economic and social success. Among other goals, the Nation of Islam fought for a state of their own, separate from one inhabited by white people. By the time he was paroled in 1952, Malcolm was a devoted follower with the new surname "X." He considered "Little" a slave name and chose the "X" to signify his lost tribal name.

He was a magnetic orator, and in 1959, had a weeklong special on TV called 1959, The Hate That Hate Produced. When JFK was assassinated, Malcolm X was controversial in saying, “

In 1964, pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The trip proved life altering, as Malcolm met "blonde-haired, blue-eyed men I could call my brothers." He returned to the United States with a new outlook on integration. This time, instead of just preaching to African-Americans, he had a message for all races.

Relations between Malcolm and the Nation of Islam had become volatile after he renounced Elijah Muhammad (Muhammad had affairs/kids with six women, which went against Islam's rule of celibacy until marriage and Malcolm X publicly announced what Muhammad had done). Informants working in the Nation of Islam warned that Malcolm had been marked for assassination (one man had even been ordered to help plant a bomb in his car). After repeated attempts on his life, Malcolm rarely traveled anywhere without bodyguards. On February 14, 1965 the home where Malcolm, Betty (his wife) and their four daughters lived in East Elmhurst, New York was firebombed (the family escaped physical injury).

At a speaking engagement in the Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom on February 21, 1965 three gunmen rushed Malcolm onstage and shot him 15 times at close range. The 39-year-old was pronounced dead on arrival at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Fifteen hundred people attended Malcolm's funeral in Harlem at the Faith Temple Church of God in Christ on February 27, 1965. After the ceremony, friends took the shovels from the gravediggers and buried Malcolm themselves. Later that year, Betty gave birth to their twin daughters.

Quotes:

"We declare our right on this earth...to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence *by any means necessary*."

"Our objective is complete freedom, justice and equality *by any means necessary*."

"The day that the black man takes an uncompromising step and realizes that he's within his rights, when his own freedom is being jeopardized, to use *any means necessary* to bring about his freedom or put a halt to that injustice, I don't think he'll be by himself."

"Without education, you're not going anywhere in this world."

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

"Look at yourselves. Some of you ... teenagers, students. How do you think I feel and I belong to a generation ahead of you - how do you think I feel to have to tell you, 'We, my generation, sat around like a knot on a wall while the whole world was fighting for its human rights - and you've got to be born into a society where you still have that same fight.' What did we do, who preceded you? I'll tell you what we did. Nothing. And don't you make the same mistake we made...."

"If you've studied the captives being caught by the American soldiers in South Vietnam, you'll find that these guerrillas are young people. Some of them are just children and some haven't reached their teens. Most are teenagers. It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. In the Congo, the refugees point out that many of the Congolese revolutionaries, they shoot all the way down to seven years old - that's been reported in the press. Because the revolutionaries are children, young people. In these countries, the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist. And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people more incensed over it - they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it."

QUOTES on MLK

"He got the peace prize, we got the problem.... If I'm following a general, and he's leading me into a battle, and the enemy tends to give him rewards, or awards, I get suspicious of him. Especially if he gets a peace award before the war is over."

"I want Dr. King to know that I didn't come to Selma to make his job difficult. I really did come thinking I could make it easier. If the white people realize what the alternative is, perhaps they will be more willing to hear Dr. King."

Malcolm X



Elizabeth Eckford

Bio: Elizabeth Eckford was born on October 4, 1941. On September 4, 1957, Eckford arrived at Central High School alone. The Little Rock Nine were supposed to go together, but their meeting place was changed the previous night. The Eckford family had no phone, and so Daisy Bates intended to go to their place early the next day but never made it. As a result, Eckford was alone when she got off the bus a block from the school and tried to enter the campus twice, only to be turned away both times by Arkansas National Guard troops, there under orders from Governor Orval Faubus. She then confronted an angry mob of people—men, women, and teenagers—opposing integration, chanting, “Two, four, six, eight, we ain’t gonna integrate.” Eckford made her way through the mob and sat on a bus bench at the end of the block. She was eventually able to board a city bus, and went to her mother’s workplace.

Quotes:

"For a moment all I could hear was the shuffling of their feet. Then someone shouted, 'Here she comes, get ready!' I moved away from the crowd on the sidewalk and into the street. If the mob came at me then I could cross back over and the guards could protect me."

"It's difficult to walk through pain. [My] legs burn when I speak of that day. [I] Got off the bus. ... As I approached the soldiers closed rank. ... I looked for help from an adult. I saw this woman I think had a kind face. But she spat on me ... And so on and so forth."

"True reconciliation can occur when we honestly acknowledge our painful but shared past."

Reconciliation: Eckford thought she saw a chance for healing in 1997, when one of the hecklers in the photo stepped forward publicly. In 1997 Hazel Bryan Massery, who had apologized privately to Eckford in the early 1960s, attended ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of Central's integration. Photographer Will Counts, who took the original picture, shot a new portrait of the women. It was titled "Reconciliation." But Eckford says there was no reconciliation, really. After four years of appearing on TV and at speaking engagements together, the two stopped talking to each other. Massery, now 65, has refused interviews since 2001. Eckford says the woman she once called a friend didn't want to relive history anymore.

ELIZABETH ECKFORD



George Wallace

Bio: (August 25, 1919 to September 13, 1998) was an American politician, who was elected Governor of Alabama (as a Democrat) four times (1962, 1970, 1974 and 1982) and ran for U.S. President (in 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976). He adopted a hard-line segregationist style, and used this stand to court the white vote in the next gubernatorial election. In 1962 he was elected governor on a pro-segregation, pro-states' rights platform in a landslide victory. In his inaugural speech he declared "segregation now, segregation forever". He was shot in an attempted assassination in 1972 where the bullet lodged itself into his spine and Wallace could never walk again. In the late 1970s he became a born-again Christian, and around the same time apologized to Black Civil Rights leaders for his earlier segregationist views, calling these views wrong. His final term as Governor saw a record number of black Alabamians appointed to government positions.

Quotes:

Wallace said he disagreed with Abraham Lincoln that blacks should be able to vote, serve on juries, or hold public office - although he agreed with Lincoln that equality for blacks could come with education, uplift and time.

I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.

If any demonstrator ever lays down in front of my car, it'll be the last car he'll ever lay down in front of.

GEORGE WALLACE (Gov. AL)

