

Knowledge Set Teaching Guide

This Knowledge Set explores reasons for celebrating Black History Month and highlights the impact that the Civil Rights Movement continues to have on social activism today. As students begin this set, they will learn about the origins of Black History Month and evaluate arguments for its continued celebration. The later texts in this set highlight the contributions “ordinary” people made to the Civil Rights Movement. As the set concludes, students will consider how learning about previous campaigns for social change can influence individuals and reform movements in modern society.

Target Grades & Subject(s): Grades 5-10; English-Language Arts, History

Learning Objectives

- Students will identify and analyze how the author develops main ideas in a text and how an author’s purpose and point of view influences their writing. (CCSS RI.1, RI/RH.6)
- Students will understand key people and events of the Civil Rights Movement and the impact that specific tactics and forms of protest had on outcomes. (CCSS RI.3)

Before Teaching this Set

- Students should have a general understanding of the social and political climate of the U.S. before and during the Civil Rights Movement (1950s and 1960s).

Texts in this Set (download texts [here](#))

Text 1: Over 40 Years Of Black History Month (1 page)	
This article explains the origins and original purpose for Black History Month. This context will help students as they consider arguments regarding the continued celebration of Black History Month in the next article.	<u>Discussion Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the article, why is it important for a race or group of people to remember its history? Do you agree with this view?
Text 2: Is Black History Month Still Important? (2 pages)	
In this article, the author argues that dedicating a month to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora helps all people gain a more comprehensive understanding of American history.	<u>Extension Activity:</u> Have students research and prepare a poster describing the life and achievements of a contemporary African-American leader that others may not have heard of.
Text 3: The Emergence Of The Civil Rights Movement (1 page)	
At this point in the Knowledge Set, students will transition to studying an important time period in African-American history -- the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. This text explains the goals and major events of this movement.	<u>Extension Activity:</u> Have students create a timeline that highlights key events (policies, protests, etc.) of the Civil Rights Movement. Discuss how these events and policies impact their lives today.
Text 4: The 'Nuts and Bolts' Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement (3 pages)	
In this text, students will continue learning about key events of the Civil Rights Movement while focusing on some of its lesser-known leaders. The instruction in this text guides students to analyze the words and actions of these individuals and use these details to make inferences about each person’s character and the time period in which they lived.	<u>Discussion Questions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How were the leaders described in the article similar or different to more prominent leaders like Martin Luther King Jr.? - In what ways did these leaders continue to fight for equal rights throughout their lives?
Text 5: How Four College Students Launched a New Wave of Historic Civil Rights Protests (1 page)	
The final article in this set describes how the sit-in protests in Greensboro, NC in 1960 served as a model for future nonviolent protests. As students read, they will consider how young people have played an important role in advocating for social change both in the past and modern society. The instruction in this text also guides students to distinguish historical facts from the author’s opinions.	<u>Extension Activity:</u> Have pairs of students research present-day social or political issues around the world. Students can then prepare a presentation highlighting the efforts that activists are using to promote change. Encourage students to compare and contrast these present-day issues and movements to the Civil Rights Movement.