

Florida Voices Rise

Read how Florida communities helped challenge segregation.

SS.4.A.8.1 "Identify Florida's role in the Civil Rights Movement."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions taken by Florida activists. Circle sentences that explain how those actions helped the Civil Rights Movement.

Florida Takes Action

- ① In 1956, Florida students and adults challenged unfair rules on buses in Tallahassee. After two Black women were arrested for sitting in seats reserved for white riders, the Inter-Civic Council organized a bus boycott. Many Black residents walked, shared rides, or used carpools instead of riding. The boycott showed that people in Florida could work together to demand equal treatment.
- ② Eight years later, St. Augustine became an important place in the national Civil Rights Movement. Local leader Dr. Robert Hayling and other activists protested segregation in public places. In 1964, young people who tried to be served at a whites-only lunch counter were arrested. News reports about peaceful protesters facing violence helped more Americans see why civil rights laws were needed.
- ③ The work in Tallahassee and St. Augustine was part of a larger fight across the United States. Florida activists used boycotts, marches, sit-ins, and court action to challenge segregation. Their actions drew national attention and added pressure for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned segregation in many public places. Florida was one of several states where local action helped bring national change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What action did the Inter-Civic Council organize in Tallahassee, and why did people take part?

2 How did Black residents make the Tallahassee bus boycott work?

3 What happened in St. Augustine that helped people across the country notice the civil rights struggle?

4 How did local actions in Florida help bring about national change?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about either Tallahassee or St. Augustine. Name one strategy people used and explain how that local action helped the larger Civil Rights Movement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions taken by Florida activists. Circle sentences that explain how those actions helped the Civil Rights Movement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action did the Inter-Civic Council organize in Tallahassee, and why did people take part?	It organized a bus boycott. People took part to challenge unfair bus rules and demand equal treatment.
2	How did Black residents make the Tallahassee bus boycott work?	They walked, shared rides, or used carpools instead of riding the buses.
3	What happened in St. Augustine that helped people across the country notice the civil rights struggle?	News reports showed peaceful protesters facing violence. Young people were also arrested at a whites-only lunch counter.
4	How did local actions in Florida help bring about national change?	Florida activists' actions drew national attention and added pressure for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tallahassee residents joined a bus boycott after unfair bus rules harmed Black riders. They walked or shared rides to show that they would not accept segregation. Their united action showed how people in Florida helped push for equal treatment.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the boycott, protests, sit-ins, marches, or court action when supported by the passage. For the open response, accept either Florida community if the student names a strategy and clearly connects local action to the larger movement.