

Voices That Changed

Trace how people and actions advanced civil rights.

USII.8.a “examining the contributions of key leaders and events during the Civil Rights Era including, but not limited to Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, John Lewis, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Jonathan Daniels...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person or group named, circle the action they took, and number the goals or problems their actions addressed.

Many Paths Toward Equality

- ① During the Civil Rights Era, ordinary people and leaders challenged unfair laws and practices. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama. Her arrest helped begin the Montgomery bus boycott, when many Black residents stopped riding city buses. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became a leading spokesman for the boycott and for nonviolent protest. In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges entered a previously all-white school in New Orleans under federal protection. Medgar Evers worked in Mississippi to register Black voters and investigate racial violence before he was murdered in 1963.
- ② In 1960, Black college students began sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Greensboro, North Carolina. They remained seated peacefully while demanding equal service, and the tactic spread to other cities. John Lewis, a leader in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, organized young people for nonviolent action. In 1965, Lewis helped lead a Selma march that called attention to the need for voting rights. Dorothy Height worked with civil rights organizations and spoke strongly for the rights of Black women and families. Malcolm X stressed Black pride and self-determination, offering a different voice within the movement.
- ③ Violence against civil rights workers showed the risks of challenging injustice. In Alabama in 1965, Jonathan Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian, was killed while protecting Ruby Sales, a Black teenager, from a shotgun blast. His death drew attention to the danger faced by people seeking equal rights. Robert Kennedy supported civil rights as a U.S. senator. After King was assassinated in 1968, Kennedy spoke in Indianapolis and urged people to reject hatred and seek understanding. These leaders and events used different methods, but together they pressed the nation to consider equality, safety, education, and voting rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Rosa Parks's arrest lead to a boycott, and what role did Dr. King have in that effort?

2 What different barriers did Ruby Bridges and Medgar Evers challenge?

3 What did the sit-ins seek, and what need did the Selma march call attention to?

4 How did Jonathan Daniels's death and Robert Kennedy's Indianapolis speech each reveal or respond to violence?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one leader and one event from the passage. Write exactly four sentences explaining the leader's contribution, the event's goal, and how the leader's work could help bring change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each person or group named, circle the action they took, and number the goals or problems their actions addressed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Rosa Parks's arrest lead to a boycott, and what role did Dr. King have in that effort?	Parks's arrest helped begin the Montgomery bus boycott. King became a leading spokesman for the boycott and for nonviolent protest.
2	What different barriers did Ruby Bridges and Medgar Evers challenge?	Bridges challenged school segregation by entering an all-white school. Evers worked for Black voter registration and investigated racial violence.
3	What did the sit-ins seek, and what need did the Selma march call attention to?	The sit-ins demanded equal service at segregated lunch counters. The Selma march called attention to the need for voting rights.
4	How did Jonathan Daniels's death and Robert Kennedy's Indianapolis speech each reveal or respond to violence?	Daniels's death drew attention to the danger faced by people seeking equal rights. Kennedy urged people to reject hatred and seek understanding after King's assassination.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

John Lewis helped lead the Selma march in 1965. As a young leader, he organized people for nonviolent action. The march called attention to the need for voting rights. His leadership helped turn a public event into pressure for change.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each person's contribution and each event's goal when they match the passage. For the open response, accept a clear four-sentence explanation using accurate evidence and a reasonable connection between the leader and the event.