

The March on Washington: Communicating for Civil Rights

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Junior Division
Individual Exhibit
Process Paper Word Count: 492
Exhibit Word Count: 500

How I chose my topic

I chose my topic for numerous reasons. The main reason was because it perfectly fit the theme of "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." The other reason is because I have always been really interested in the Civil Rights Movement and all it accomplished. The March on Washington did not only fit the theme but it was an interesting topic. The March on Washington was one of the most peaceful protests in the Civil Rights Movement. The *Civil Rights Act of 1964* happened because of the March on Washington. Most people don't know a lot about this event, so I decided to do my exhibit on it.

How I did my research

When I did my research I began looking for resources that went in depth about the protest. I found websites, articles, videos, and photos. I even found new people I didn't know about. Acquiring all this information really helped me understand more. It also made my paper better. When finding these videos I got to see real people who marched there and got to see the protest through their point of view. This led me to discover that there were several leaders in addition to Martin Luther King. I was able to find many primary sources from the John F. Kennedy Library website. I read them. I highlighted important things and took notes. I found a program for the March on Washington. This really helped me include even more information in my exhibit that others and I didn't know.

Why I chose exhibit and how I created my project

I chose an exhibit because I wanted to teach others about the march through pictures. I started by doing research on all the people involved with the March on Washington. I found information and put my notes in a google doc. I made sure that I was getting the information correct. I then fixed it by reducing the amount of words and made sure it made sense. I then collected pictures and quotes to put my work together. Next I cut out my words and pictures and put them on cardstock. After I was finished with that I laid it out. I then fixed some pictures and quotes that didn't look good. After that I taped everything to my board. I got feedback, then started to fix the mistakes. I documented all of my sources in my annotated bibliography.

How My Topic Relates to the NHD Theme

My topic relates to the theme because the March on Washington was an important event because they communicated in order to help people understand the need for a Civil Rights Act to end discrimination and segregation. All activists in the movement showed courage and bravery to make this country a better place for all people to live in. These activists risked their lives to fight for what they believed in. They communicated so people could have equal rights.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

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This video showed me what protesters did and it showed me how peaceful the event was.

A. Philip Randolph-Civil Rights Activist, www.myblackhistory.net/Philip_Randolph.htm.

About the Author: Alan Hart is the retired former managing editor of the UE NEWS.

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Jim Crow - A Legacy of Injustice.” *UE*, 14 Feb. 2014,

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“Assassin Fells Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, 1968.” *POLITICO*, 4 Apr. 2019,

www.politico.com/story/2019/04/04/assassin-fells-martin-luther-king-jr-april-4-1968-1246917.

This was an article and photo telling about Dr. King’s assassination. This includes a picture of King standing in the balcony where he was assassinated.

“Bayard Rustin.” *New Civil Rights Generation Recognizes Bayard Rustin*,

www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/20/march-on-washington-bayard-rustin/2678505/.

I used this source for a photo of Bayard Rustin, the chief organizer of the March on Washington.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Jim Crow - A Legacy of Injustice,

www.ueunion.org/ue-news-feature/2014/black-history-month-jim-crow-a-legacy-of-injustice.

I used this as a primary source for a photo of a sign showing racism and segregation because the sign says, "We wash for white people only."

Cho, Nancy. "Montgomery Improvement Association (1955–1969) •." •, 10 Dec. 2019,

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I'm using this as a primary source because I used a photo from this website. This article taught me about the Montgomery Bus Boycott that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clurman, Rodney H. "Safety Meeting Minutes." Received by Charles Horsky, *JFK Library*, 11 July 1963,

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This source was the minutes of a meeting held at the police department to discuss the details of the march and how they would make sure it was a safe event.

"Crowds Gathering at the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963."

The Lasting Power of Dr. King's Dream Speech - The New York Times,

www.nytimes.com/2013/08/28/us/the-lasting-power-of-dr-kings-dream-speech.html.

I used this source for a photo of protesters going to the Lincoln Memorial.

"Emmett Till." *Emmett Till - Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett_Till.

I used this source for a photo of Emmet Till.

Escaped Slave Gordon, Also Known as "Whipped Peter," Showing His Scarred Back at a Medical Examination, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.54375/.

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“Fifteenth Amendment.” *Fifteenth Amendment*,

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“14th Amendment.” *14th Amendment: Simplified Summary*,

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I used this source for a photo of a summary of the 14th amendment.

“James Farmer.” *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 6 July 2020,

www.biography.com/activist/james-farmer.

This was an article and photo that taught me about James Farmer, a leader in the March on Washington.

“John Lewis.” *John Lewis- Civil Rights Activist* , www.myblackhistory.net/John_Lewis.htm.

I used this source for a photo of John Lewis, a main organizer of the March on Washington and the chairman of the SNCC.

“Louisiana’s 1964 Literacy Test:” *Could You Pass This Voting Literacy Test Designed To Disenfranchise African Americans?*, allthatsinteresting.com/voting-literacy-test.

I used this source for a photo of a literacy test, which was confusing, targeted certain groups of people, and one question would equal failure.

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#The-Event-1963.

This source showed me the route of march. They started at the Washington Monument then protesters marched down either Constitution Avenue or Independence Avenue meeting at the Lincoln Memorial.

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I used this source for a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. giving the “I Have a Dream Speech.” I also found quotes from this speech for my exhibit.

“Martin Luther King Jr.” *‘I Have A Dream’ Speech, In Its Entirety*,
www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety.

I used this website for a photo of Martin Luther King Jr.

“MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (1955–1969).”
Montgomery-Improvement-Association-1955-1969,
www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/montgomery-improvement-association-1955-1969/.

I used this source for a photo of a meeting of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

“Mrs. Nettie Hunt and Daughter Nikie on the Steps of the Supreme Court, 1954.” *Brown v. Board of Education*, www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-brown.html.

I used this source for a photo of Nettie Hunt and her daughter sitting on the steps at the Supreme Court after the court banned segregation in public schools.

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“People Walked Peacefully Holding Placards with Their Demands.” *The March on Washington – African American Civil Rights Movement*,

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“Planning the March.” Received by Council Presidents Council Chaplains Catholic Race

Relations Leadership, *JFK Library*, 7 Aug. 1963,

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I learned about how they wanted Catholics to attend the March. The letter also describes their ambitions, and planning for the march.

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President's Room near the Senate Chambers on Aug. 6.” *LBJ Signs Voting Rights Act, Aug. 6, 1965 - POLITICO* ,

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“President Kennedy Meets with the Leaders of the March On Washington on August 28, 1963 in the Oval Office.” *The Kennedys and the Civil Rights Movement* ,

www.nps.gov/articles/000/the-kennedys-and-civil-rights.htm.

I use this source for a photo of President Kennedy meeting with the leaders of the March on Washington. This showed Kennedy’s support for their efforts.

“President Kennedy's August 20, 1963 Press Conference.” *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*, 1963,

civilrights.jfklibrary.org/media-assets/the-march-on-washington-for-jobs-and-freedom.html#The-President's-Stance.

This video taught me that President Kennedy thought this issue affected all Americans and not just the people who attended the march.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - John F. Kennedy - Civil Rights Movement,

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This informed me about JFK's opinion about the march and what he thought about other issues related to that.

“Rosa Parks.” *Rosa Parks: Bus Boycott, Civil Rights & Facts- HISTORY*,

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I used this source for a picture of Rosa Parks, the woman whose arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

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I used this photo of President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*.

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This is an actual literacy test from Louisiana that was given to minority voters in the early 1960s. I learned how confusing and difficult these tests could be.

“Whitney Young Jr.” *Whitney Young Jr. - Quotes, Facts & Death - Biography* ,

www.biography.com/activist/whitney-young-jr.

I used this source for a photo of Whitney Young Jr.

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This article taught me about the murder of Emmett Till by two white men who were then acquitted.

“Activist Alicia Garza Coined the Phrase ‘Black Lives Matter’ in 2013 with a Facebook Post. Today, People around the World Are Joining the Movement She Co-Founded.”

This taught me about Alicia Garza cofounder of the black lives matter movement. She was the first person to say “Black Lives Matter”.

“Alicia Garza Co-Founded Black Lives Matter. Here's Why She's so Hopeful for the Future.” *History*, National Geographic, 10 Feb. 2021,

www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/alicia-garza-co-founded-black-lives-matter-why-future-hopeful.

This photo tells about Alicia Garza and why she started the Black Lives Matter movement.

“Barack Obama Is Sworn in as the 44th President of the United States during a Ceremony at the Capitol by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr.” *Obama Is Sworn In as the 44th President - The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com/2009/01/21/us/politics/20web-inaug2.html.

I used this source for a photo of Obama's first inauguration.

Combing Through 41 Million Tweets To Show How #BlackLivesMatter Exploded,

www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2016/03/02/468704888/combing-through-41-million-tweets-to-show-how-blacklivesmatter-exploded.

I used this source for a photo of a black lives matter protest.

“Five Things You Need to Know About Brown vs. Board.” *Alliance For Excellent Education*, all4ed.org/five-things-you-need-to-know-about-brown-vs-board/.

This article taught me about the Supreme Court case that said that segregated schools violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

“George Floyd Was Murdered by a Minneapolis Police Officer on May 25.” *In Their Own*

Words: Milwaukee Reacts to Death of George Floyd and Protests,

onmilwaukee.com/articles/nns-george-floyd-protests-own-words#omclbx-img-nns-george-floyd-protests-own-words.

I used this source for a photo of George Floyd. a man who was killed in the custody of a police officer.

Hauck, Grace. “John Lewis 'Note to Self': 'One Day, You'll Be Elected to the Congress,' Lewis Tells Younger Self.” *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 18 July 2020,

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History.com Editors. “Civil Rights Movement.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement.

This article taught me about the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. It taught me about the goals and main events.

History.com Editors. “Voting Rights Act of 1965.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, www.history.com/topics/black-history/voting-rights-act.

This taught me about the passage of the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*.

Kakutani, Michiko. "The Lasting Power of Dr. King's Dream Speech." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 28 Aug. 2013,

www.nytimes.com/2013/08/28/us/the-lasting-power-of-dr-kings-dream-speech.html.

This article taught me about what King said in his speech and how he wanted America to be.

Luther King Jr. – Biography, Martin. "The Nobel Peace Prize 1964." *NobelPrize.org*,

www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/biographical

This article taught me about Dr. King and why he won the Nobel Peace Prize, and how it was important after all the hard work he did.

"Montgomery Bus Boycott." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

www.britannica.com/event/Montgomery-bus-boycott.

This article taught me about the bus boycott, and why Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat.

"NAACP." *Arch City Religion*, www.archcityreligion.org/naacp.

This article taught me about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and what it was striving for.

"The Places of Bayard Rustin (U.S. National Park Service)." *National Parks Service*, U.S.

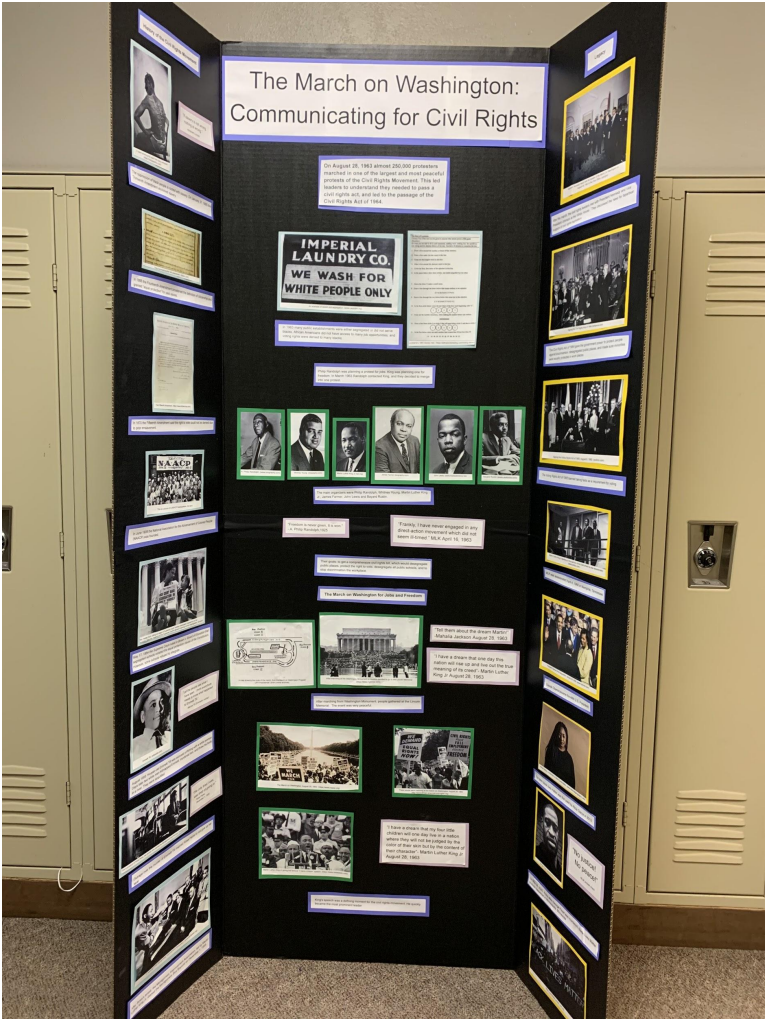
Department of the Interior, www.nps.gov/articles/the-places-of-bayard-rustin.htm.

This article taught me about Bayard Rustin and what he stood for.

Xiong, Chao, and Paul Walsh. "Ex-Police Officer Derek Chauvin Charged with Murder, Manslaughter in George Floyd Death." *Star Tribune*, Star Tribune, 30 May 2020, www.startribune.com/protests-build-anew-after-fired-officer-charged-jailed/570869672/.

This article told me about the police officer who murdered George Floyd and how George Floyd died and why people were upset over it.

Full Exhibit



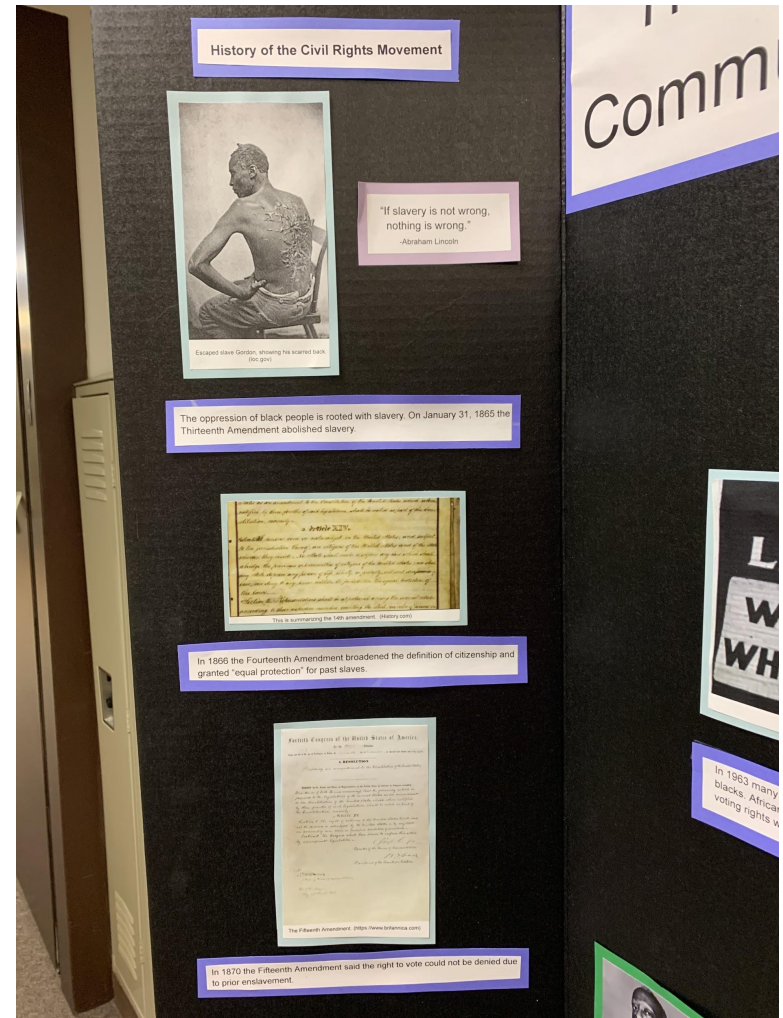
Left Top Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

Escaped slave Gordon, showing his scarred back. (loc.gov).

This is summarizing the 14th amendment.
(History.com)

The Fifteenth Amendment.
(<https://www.britannica.com>)



Left Top Panel Text

History of the Civil Rights Movement

“If slavery is not wrong,
nothing is wrong.”
-Abraham Lincoln

The oppression of black people is rooted with slavery. On January 31, 1865 the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery.

In 1866 the Fourteenth Amendment broadened the definition of citizenship and granted “equal protection” for past slaves.

In 1870 the Fifteenth Amendment said the right to vote could not be denied due to prior enslavement.

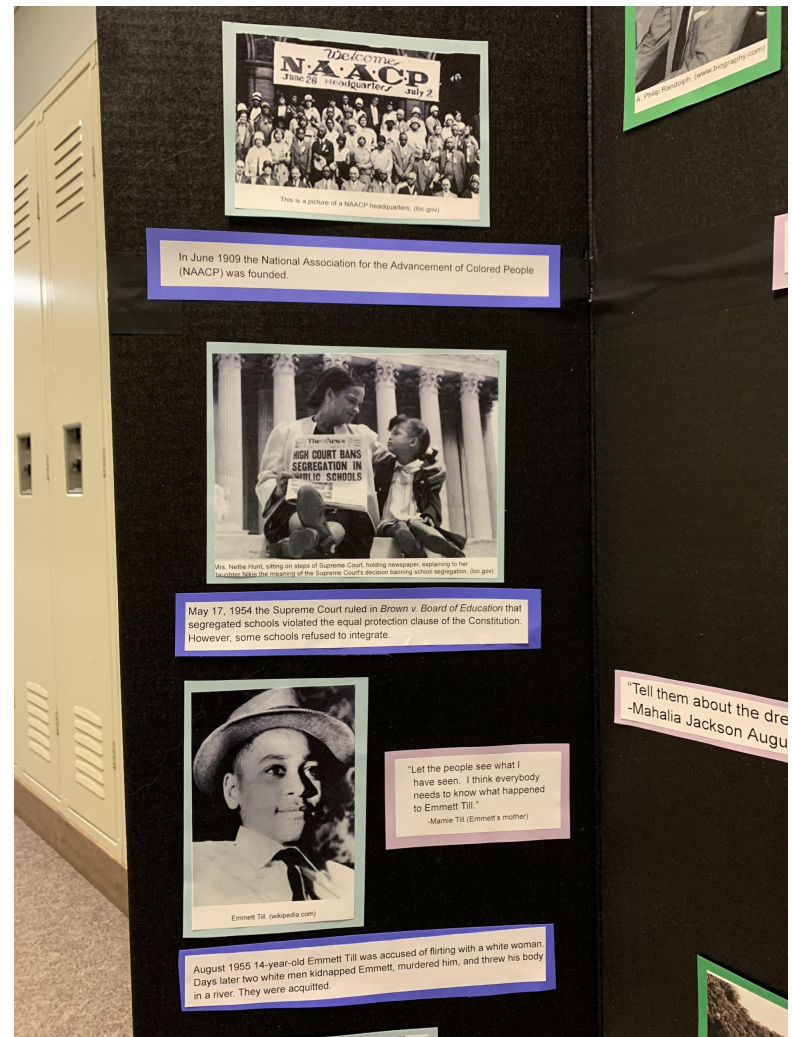
Left Center Panel Photo

Source Credit Text:

This is a picture of a NAACP headquarters. (loc.gov)

Mrs. Nettie Hunt, sitting on steps of Supreme Court, holding newspaper, explaining to her daughter Nikie the meaning of the Supreme Court's decision banning school segregation. (loc.gov)

Emmett Till. (wikipedia.com)



Left Center Panel Text

In June 1909 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded.

May 17, 1954 the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregated schools violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution. However, some schools refused to integrate.

August 1955 14-year-old Emmett Till was accused of flirting with a white woman. Days later two white men kidnapped Emmett, murdered him, and threw his body in a river. They were acquitted.

“Let the people see what I have seen. I think everybody needs to know what happened to Emmett Till.”

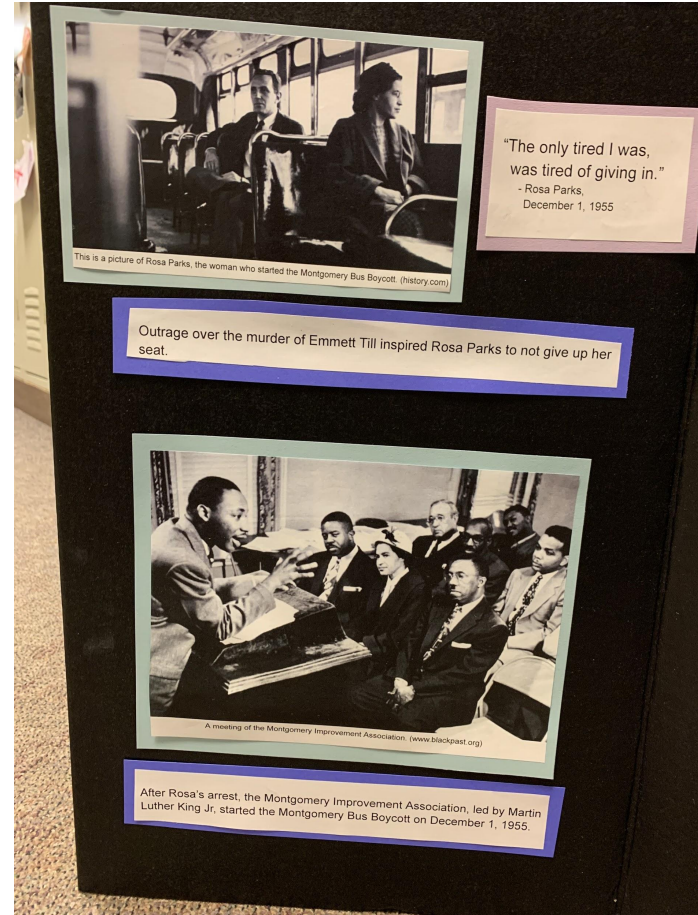
-Mamie Till (Emmett's mother)

Left Bottom Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

This is a picture of Rosa Parks, the woman who started the Montgomery Bus Boycott. (history.com)

A meeting of the Montgomery Improvement Association. (www.blackpast.org)



Left Bottom Panel Text

Outrage over the murder of Emmett Till inspired Rosa Parks to not give up her seat.

After Rosa's arrest, the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by Martin Luther King Jr, started the Montgomery Bus Boycott on December 1, 1955.

“The only tired I was,
was tired of giving in.”

- Rosa Parks,
December 1, 1955

Center Top Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

www.ueunion.org An example of racism and segregation.

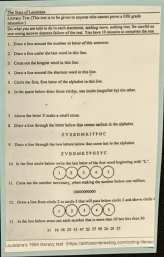
Louisiana's 1964 literacy test.
(<https://allthatsinteresting.com/voting-literacy>)

The March on Washington: Communicating for Civil Rights

On August 28, 1963 almost 250,000 protesters marched in one of the largest and most peaceful protests of the Civil Rights Movement. This led leaders to understand they needed to pass a civil rights act, and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



In 1963 many public establishments were either segregated or did not serve blacks. African Americans did not have access to many job opportunities, and voting rights were denied to many blacks.



Philip Randolph was planning a protest for jobs. King was planning one for freedom. In March 1963 Randolph contacted King, and they decided to merge into one protest.



Center Top Panel Text

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Center Center Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

A Philip Randolph. (www.biography.com)

Whitney Young (biography.com)

Martin Luther King Jr. (npr.org)

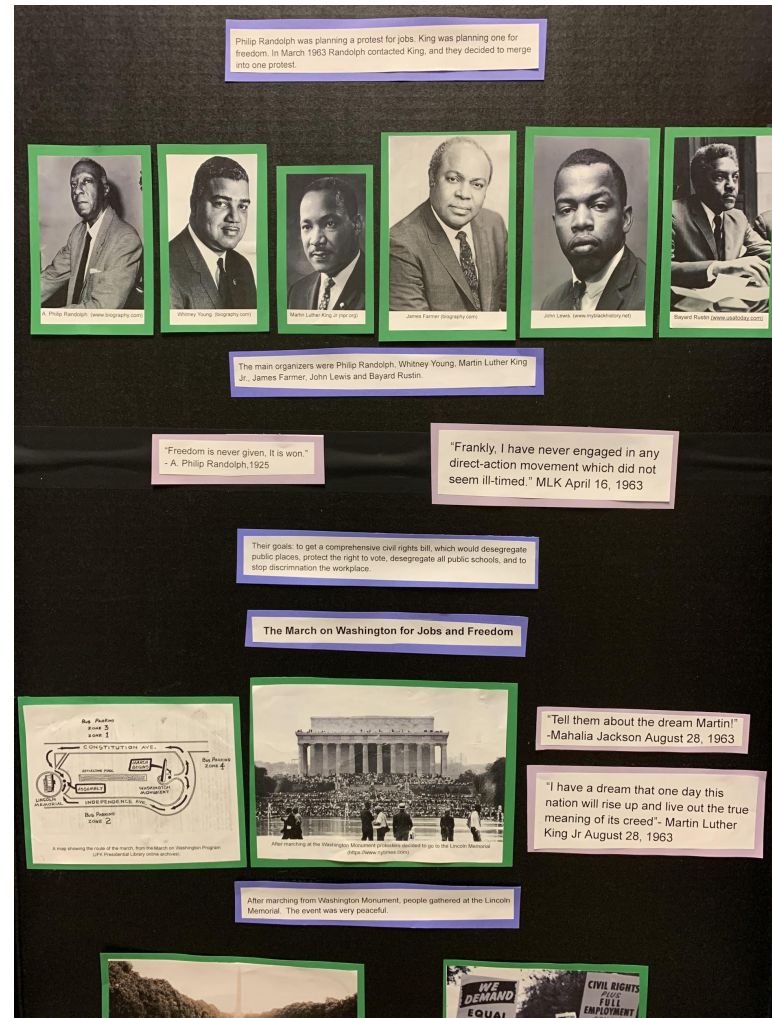
James Farmer (biography.com)

John Lewis (www.myblackhistory.net)

Bayard Rustin (www.usatoday.com)

A map showing the route of the march, from the March on Washington Program (JFK Presidential Library online archives).

After marching at the Washington Monument, protesters decided to go to the Lincoln Memorial. (<https://www.nytimes.com>)



Center Center Panel Text

The main organizers were Philip Randolph, Whitney Young, Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer, John Lewis and Bayard Rustin.

“Freedom is never given, It is won.” - A. Philip Randolph, 1925

“Frankly, I have never engaged in any direct-action movement which did not seem ill-timed.”
-MLK April 16, 1963

Their goals: to get a comprehensive civil rights bill, which would desegregate public places, protect the right to vote, desegregate all public schools, and to stop discrimination the workplace.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

“Tell them about the dream Martin!” -Mahalia Jackson August 28, 1963

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed”-
Martin Luther King Jr August 28, 1963

After marching from Washington Monument, people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial. The event was very peaceful.

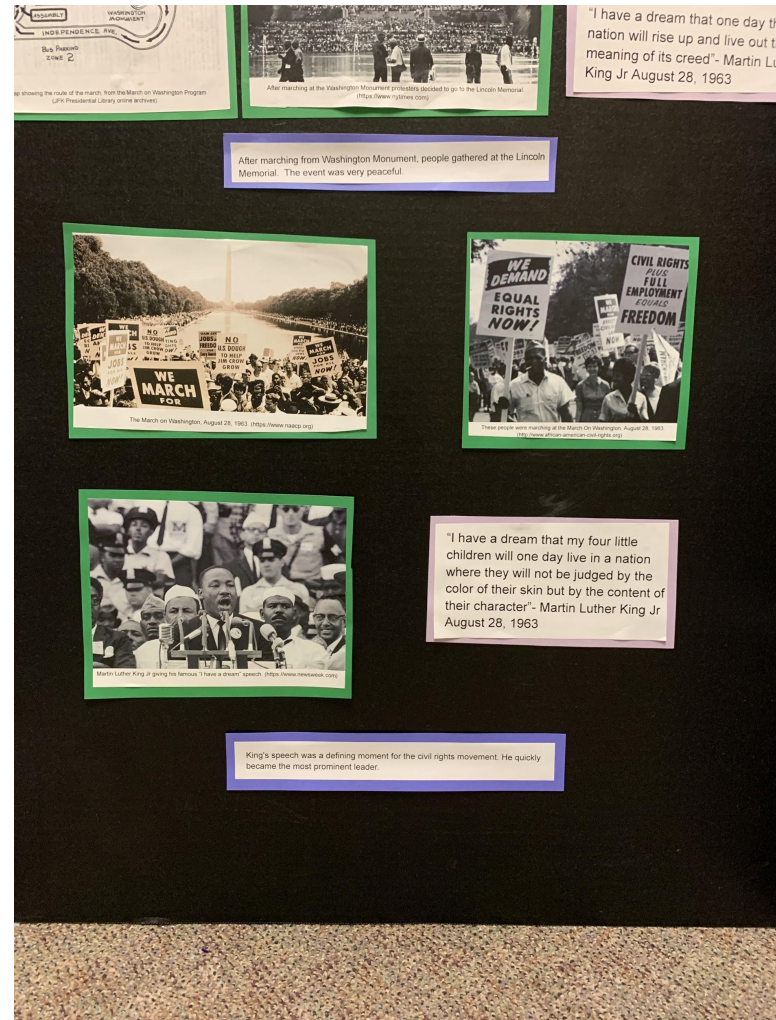
Center Bottom Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

The March on Washington, August 28, 1963.
(<https://www.naacp.org>)

These people were marching at the March On Washington,
August 28, 1963.
(<http://www.african-american-civil-rights.org>)

Martin Luther King Jr giving his famous “I have a dream”
speech. (<https://www.newsweek.com>)



Center Bottom Panel Text

After marching from Washington Monument, people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial. The event was very peaceful.

King's speech was a defining moment for the civil rights movement. He quickly became the most prominent leader.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”- Martin Luther King Jr
August 28, 1963

Right Top Panel Photo


Image Credit Text:

President Kennedy meets with the leaders of the March On Washington August 28, 1963 in the Oval Office. (nps.gov)

Signing the *Civil Rights Acts of 1964*. (britannica.com)


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Legacy



President Kennedy meets with the leaders of the March On Washington on August 28, 1963 in the Oval Office. (nps.gov)

After the march, the civil rights leaders met with President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson at the White House. They discussed the need for bipartisan support of civil rights legislation.



Signing the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. (britannica.com)

The *Civil Rights Act of 1964* gave the government power to protect people against discrimination, desegregated public places, and made sure minorities were equally protected in work places.

Right Top Panel Text

Legacy

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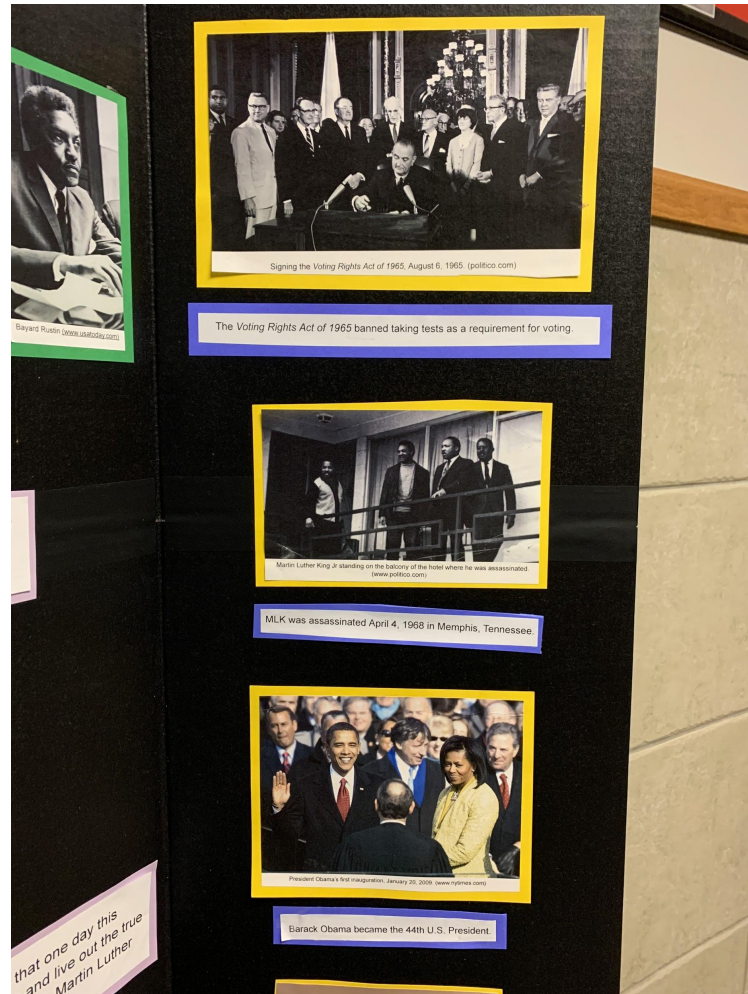
Right Center Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

Signing the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*, August 6, 1965. (politico.com)

Martin Luther King Jr standing on the balcony of the hotel where he was assassinated. (www.politico.com)

Barack Obama became the 44th U.S. President. (www.nytimes.com)



Bayard Rustin (www.usatoday.com)



Signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, August 6, 1965. (politico.com)

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 banned taking tests as a requirement for voting.



Martin Luther King Jr standing on the balcony of the hotel where he was assassinated. (www.politico.com)

MLK was assassinated April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.



President Obama's 1st inauguration, January 20, 2009. (www.nytimes.com)

Barack Obama became the 44th U.S. President.

that one day this
and live out the true
Martin Luther

Right Center Panel Text

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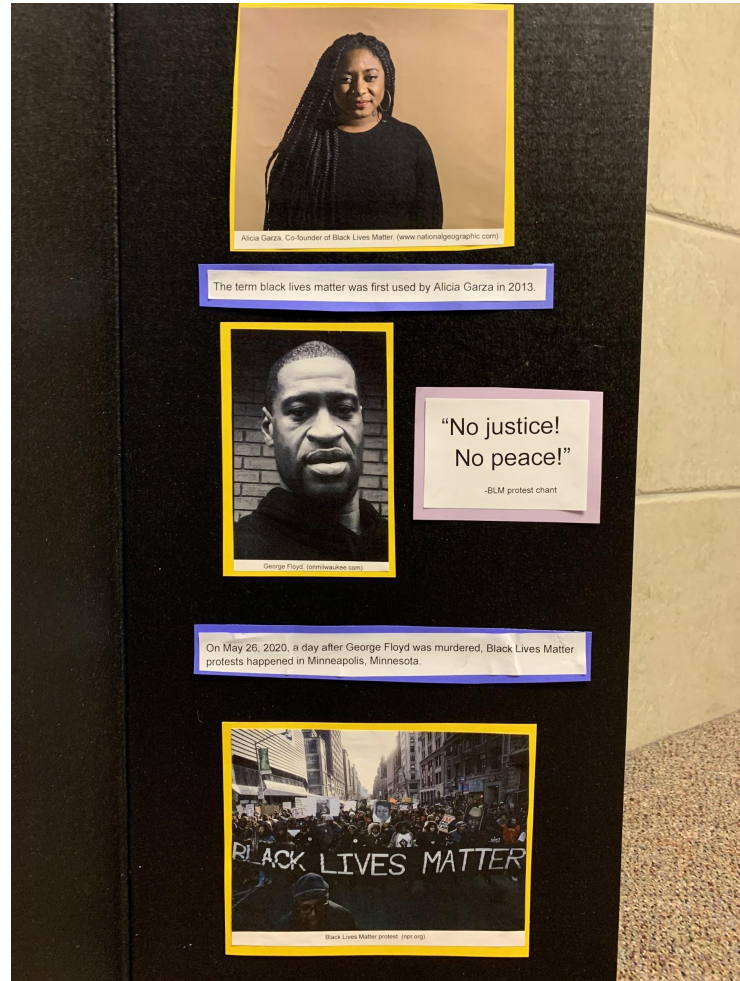
Right Bottom Panel Photo

Image Credit Text:

Alicia Garza, Co-founder of Black Lives Matter.
(www.nationalgeographic.com)

George Floyd. (onmilwaukee.com)

Black Lives Matter protest. (npr.org)



Right Bottom Panel Text

The term black lives matter was first used by Alicia Garza in 2013.

“No justice! No peace!” -BLM protest chant

On May 26, 2020, a day after George Floyd was murdered, Black Lives Matter protests happened in Minneapolis, Minnesota.