

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument



**JUNIOR RANGER BOOK**


Cover Art by Nikkolas Smith



# WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS NATIONAL MONUMENT (BICR) JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

**Where do I go first?** Check [www.nps.gov/bicr](http://www.nps.gov/bicr) for updates.

**How many places are there to visit?** 7!

**We define vocabulary at the bottom of the page, with an arrow icon like this:** 

**How long does it take to finish the book?**  
About 1.5 hours! It's OK if you can't finish.

**How many activities do I need to do?**  
As many as you can!

**Take the pledge** on the back of the book and ask about the Junior Ranger badge!

**What are civil rights?** Equal opportunities for everyone guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, regardless of how you look, where you're from, who you love, how old you are, and how or if you pray.

**What is segregation?** Laws and customs that separated people based on race in all areas of life. However, separate was never equal. The opposite of segregation is integration.

**Photograph citations can be found on [www.nps.gov/bicr](http://www.nps.gov/bicr)**

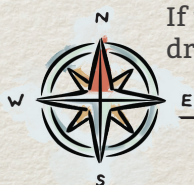
## MAP THE 7 SITES!

- 1 A.G. Gaston Motel**  
1510 5th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203  
[www.nps.gov/bicr](http://www.nps.gov/bicr)
- 2 Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI)**  
520 16th St N, Birmingham, AL 35203  
[www.bcri.org](http://www.bcri.org)
- 3 St. Paul United Methodist Church (UMC)**  
1500 6th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203  
[www.stpaulbham.org](http://www.stpaulbham.org)
- 4 16th St. Baptist Church**  
1530 6th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203  
[www.16thstreetbaptist.org](http://www.16thstreetbaptist.org)
- 5 Kelly Ingram Park**  
500 17th St N, Birmingham, AL 35203
- 6 The Masonic Temple Building**  
1630 4th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203  
[www.mwphglofal.org](http://www.mwphglofal.org)
- 7 The Historic Bethel Baptist Church**  
3233 29th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35207  
[www.thehistoricbethel.org](http://www.thehistoricbethel.org)



## GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

If you start downtown, in what direction will you drive to reach The Historic Bethel Baptist Church?





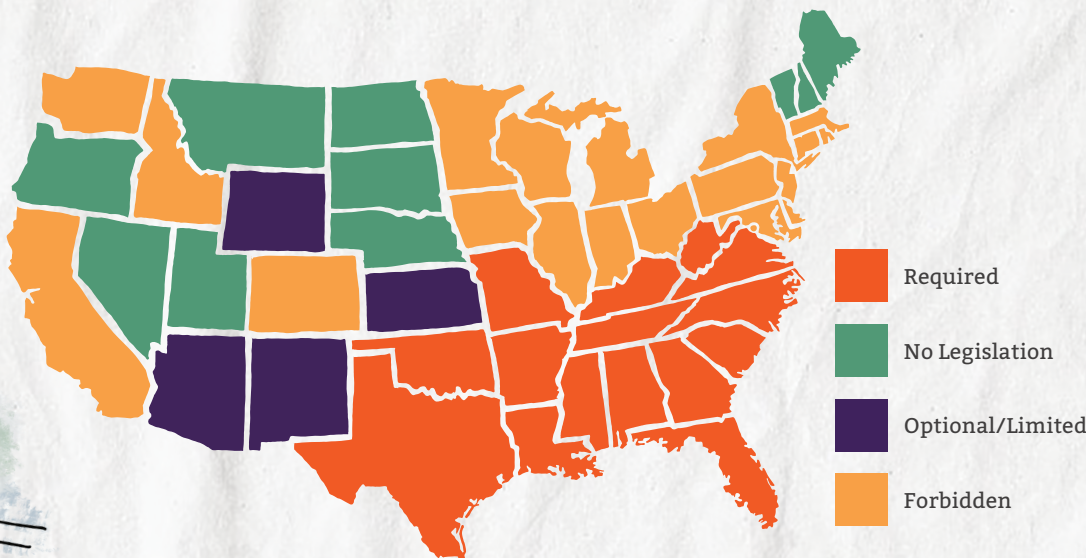
# LIFE IN BLACK AND WHITE

Life was difficult and dangerous for African Americans, especially in the **Jim Crow**\* South. Laws and customs segregated Whites and African Americans. These rules controlled almost all parts of life, down to where people lived, worked, and even sat.

## SCHOOL

Alabama officials did not invest equally in Black and White education. In 1950, the state of Alabama spent \_\_\_\_\_ on White students and \_\_\_\_\_ on Black Students. Visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) to find the answer. As a result, African American youth often studied from old books and in old buildings.

Draw outlines around states that required school segregation prior to *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954).



## TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

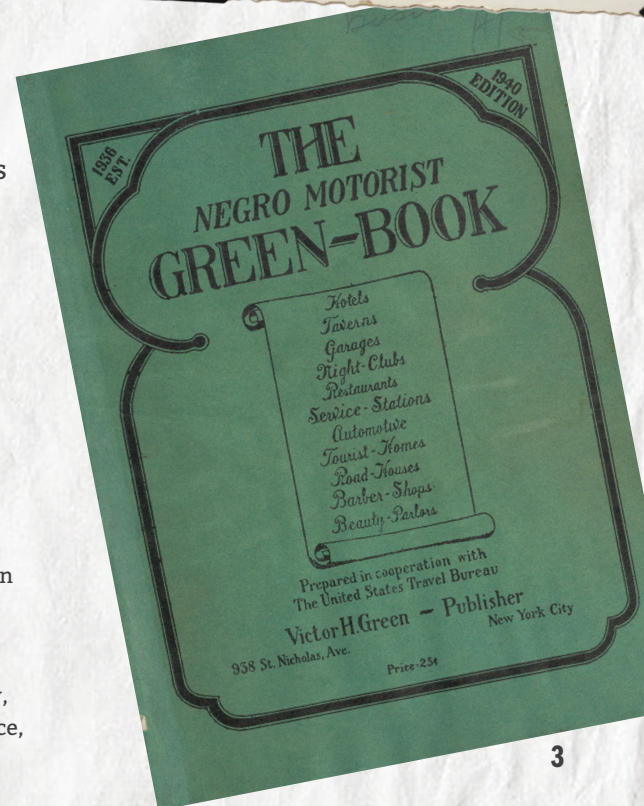
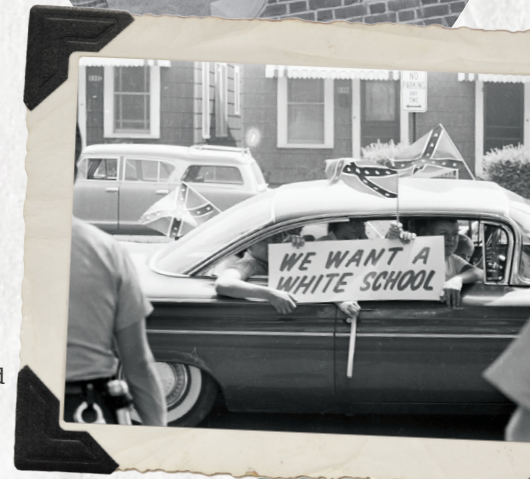
On buses, African Americans had to sit in the back. If public restrooms were provided, they were separate from Whites, and often lacked soap or stall doors. Sometimes African Americans had to relieve themselves outside.

Many used *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. It gave tips on where was safest for African American travelers to eat, sleep, get gas, and more. This could help African Americans avoid **sundown towns**\*.

➤ **Jim Crow:** Laws and customs that discriminated against Blacks and other minorities in housing, jobs, transportation, education, and more. These laws existed from 1865-1968. The name “Jim Crow” comes from White entertainers who made fun of Black people. This led to stereotypes. Read some of Birmingham’s Jim Crow laws at BCRI.

➤ **Sundown towns:** All-White towns where Blacks could work and shop during the day, but had to leave before night. If found in the town after dark, they could face violence, even death.

Protests over school integration in Birmingham, AL. If there is something you don’t understand in the photo, ask an adult.












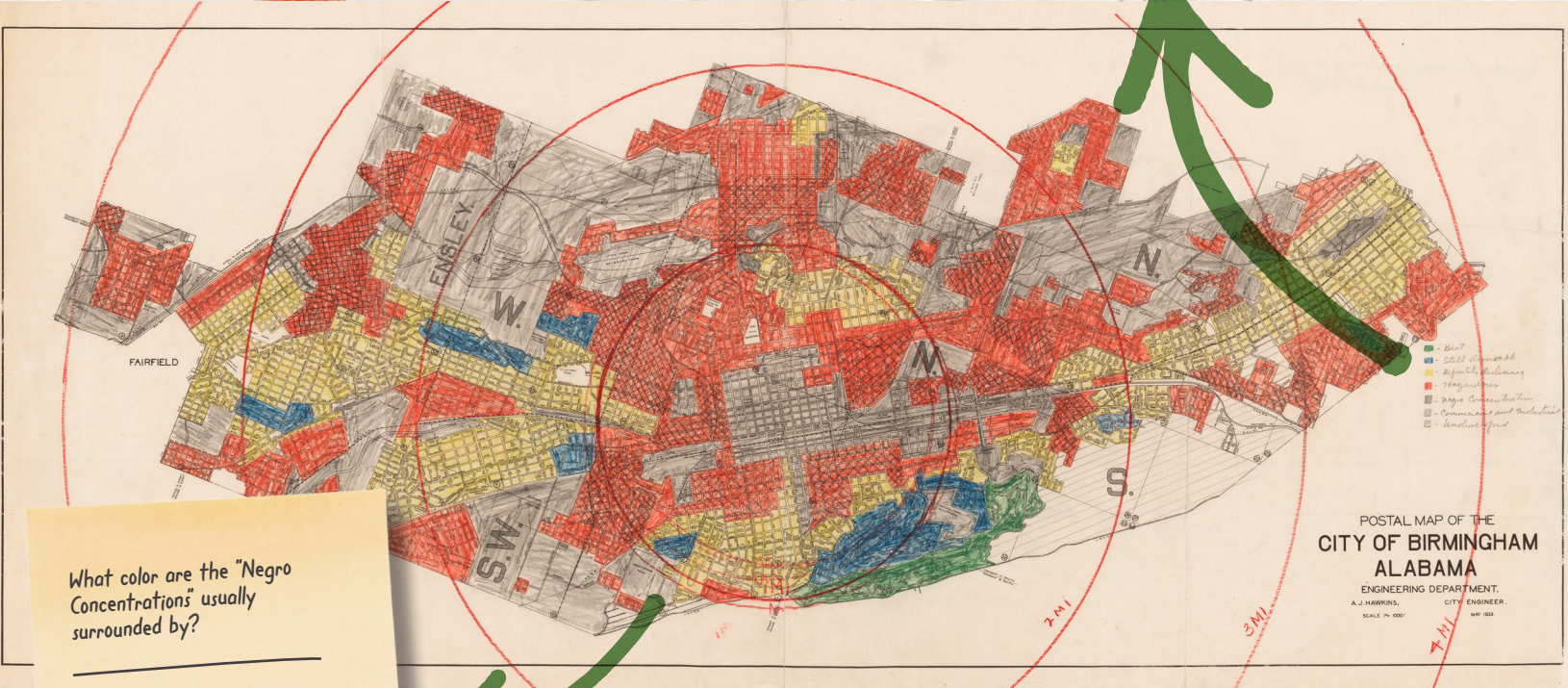
# HOUSING

Jim Crow laws restricted where African Americans could live. This was called **redlining**\*. Homes in White areas grew in value, leading to a racial wealth gap.

## REDLINING IN BIRMINGHAM 1933

### HOUSING MAP KEY

 Best	 Negro Concentration
 Still Desirable	 Commercial and Industrial
 Definitely Declining	 Undeveloped
 Hazardous	



What color are the "Negro Concentrations" usually surrounded by?  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to the map key, what does that color represent?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Graph the 1960s salaries to see the difference.

# EMPLOYMENT

Because of segregation, getting a good job was hard.

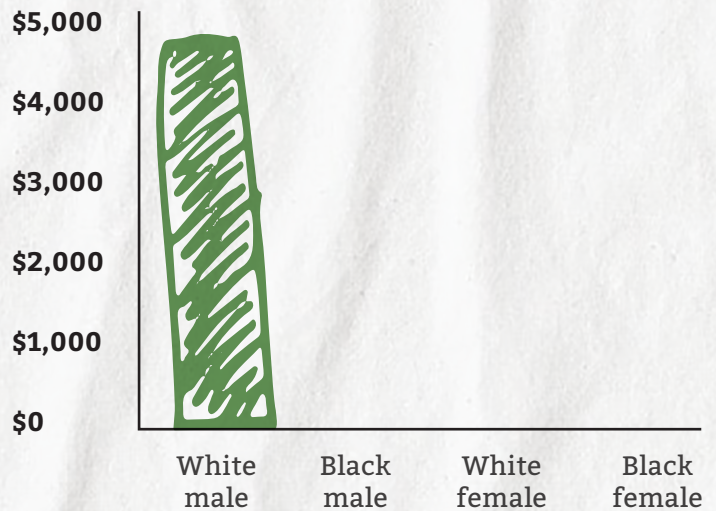
**1960 median salaries in Birmingham:**

\$4,863 - White male

\$2,373 - Black male

\$1,552 - White female

\$718 - Black female



**Redlining:** Buying a home is expensive! People often get help through loans or credit. Government officials outlined non-White neighborhoods. Often a red pen or pencil was used. This was to mark which areas were "undesirable." The U.S. government rarely gave people in these areas loans or credit. This meant Black families often struggled to buy homes, contributing to the racial wealth gap.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

“To protect and to serve” is the motto for many police. However, law enforcement often failed to keep African Americans safe. Sometimes police participated in violence against Blacks.



## BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

Visit the Barriers Gallery at BCRI. Write down one thing you learned about the convict labor system:

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Write down one feeling a Black person during this time might have felt seeing a police officer:

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# VOTING

Voting gives people power to create change. Voting is how we choose elected officials. Elected officials make laws.

However, many African Americans were excluded from participating. In 1960, only 10% of the Black population was registered to vote in Birmingham. This is called voter suppression. Attend a program at The Historic Bethel Baptist Church to learn more.

**Hold up all ten fingers. Ten percent is just one of those ten fingers.**

Today, all states gather statistics on voter registration. Check [sos.alabama.gov](http://sos.alabama.gov) for the most recent data.

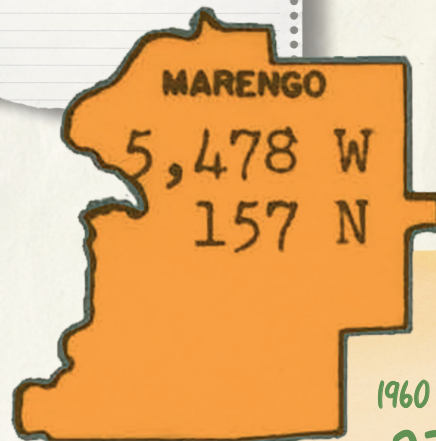


# CENSUS DATA

This county shows data about the race of registered voters in 1962. “W” stands for “White,” and “N” stands for “Negro.” Many counties were majority African American. However, few Black people were allowed to register to vote. Use the information below and the census data to the right to answer the following question.

Marengo County was 38% White. What percentage of 1960 voters was Black?

1962 Voter Registration



1960 Population  
27,098



Draw the outline of your foot on the cardboard. Inside the outline, write a poem from the foot's perspective. Title the poem "If These Feet Could Talk," "Walk a Mile in These Shoes," or choose your own title. It does not need to rhyme.



## SHOPPING

White shop owners often did not let Black shoppers try on clothes, even shoes. To find the right size, some African Americans traced an outline of their foot onto cardboard. Then they held the cardboard next to the shoes to guess which ones might fit.

## DINING & RECREATION

Laws said White and Black people couldn't play together. No checkers or cards. Not even baseball! Visit the Negro Southern League Museum in Birmingham to learn more.

If African Americans were allowed into White-owned restaurants in Birmingham, they had to be separated by a wall. This wall had to be 7 feet high. There are 12 inches in one foot. This booklet is 11 inches tall. How many booklets tall would the wall have to be?





# LIVING IN A WAR ZONE

Imagine you fought in a war for your country. When you return home, people call you names. They rip up your uniform and spit in your face. How would you feel?

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This was the experience of Black WWII veterans.



African American service members led the fight for human rights abroad and at home.

Housing shortages in Birmingham's Black communities forced some to move closer to White neighborhoods.

**White supremacists**,\* such as the Ku Klux Klan, responded with violence. They bombed over 50 Black homes. People started to call the city

## “BOMBINGHAM”

➤ **White supremacist(s):** Those who believe White people are better than others. Based only on race. These beliefs enforce racial inequality.



Bombed home of civil rights lawyer Arthur Shores. He went on to become the first African American member of city council.

“

August 20, 1963, my mother and I went to the movie theater as we always did before I returned to college. Halfway through the film, a neighbor came to tell us that our house had been bombed. My heart was racing. I was filled with anxiety, fear, and anger. As we approached our house, outraged Blacks filled Center Street North. Police tried to control the crowd by firing guns in the air. Windows had been blown out; drapes shredded, the garage doors destroyed. My dog Tasso had been killed in the bombing. I couldn't stop crying. I grieved Tasso's death for a long time.

September 4, only a few weeks later, our house was bombed again. This time my mother, father, and myself were all home. When the bomb exploded, I immediately fell to the floor as my father had always instructed. My knees buckled and my body shook; I was scared. The pungent smell of dynamite filled the house. The smoke was so thick I could barely breathe. My eyes and nose burned. Growing up on “Dynamite Hill” during that era was difficult, but my parents demonstrated strength, courage, and resilience throughout those turbulent years.

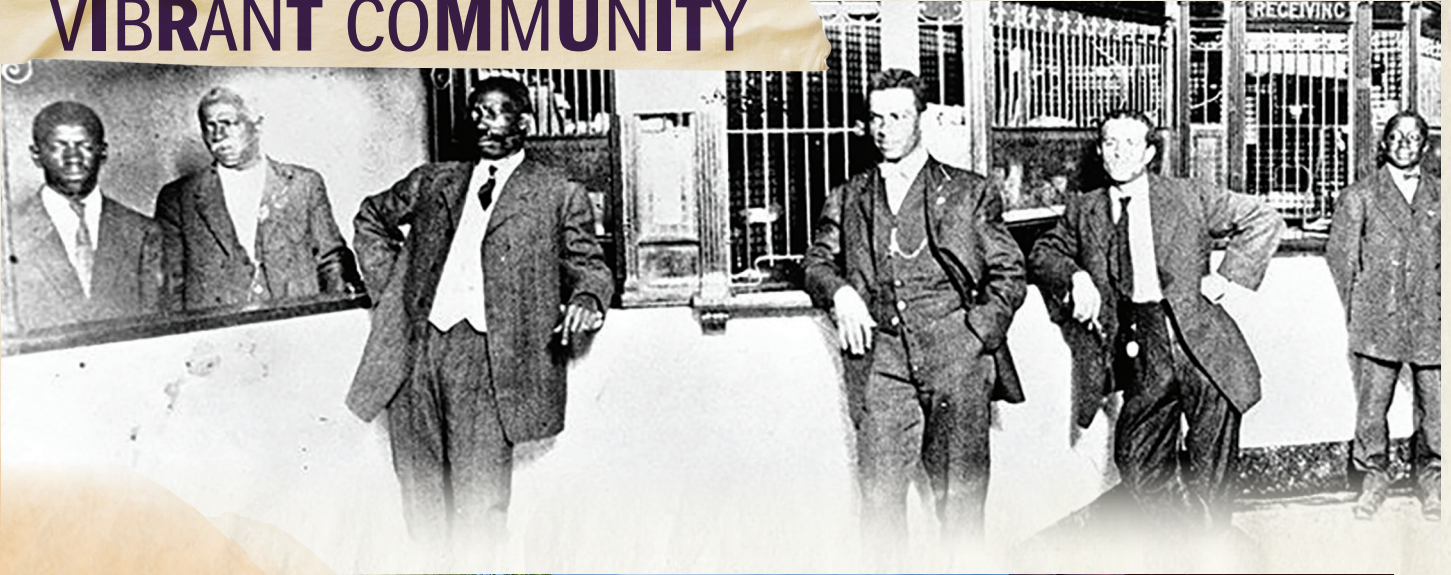
— Barbara Shores, daughter of NAACP lawyer Arthur Shores



Close your eyes and imagine this experience.



# RESILIENT AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



## EYE SPY

Go to the A.G. Gaston Motel. What on the building is...

the color orange?  
the color blue?

## A.G. GASTON MOTEL

### 1510 FIFTH AVE N.

Arthur George (A.G.) and Minnie Gaston founded many successful businesses. These include a radio station, insurance company, and a motel! A.G. Gaston's motto was, "Find a need and fill it." Many famous people stayed in the A.G. Gaston Motel, such as powerhouse singer Aretha Franklin, baseball great Jackie Robinson, and future Secretary of State Colin Powell. A traveling guide for African Americans featured the Motel. Turn to page 3 to refresh your memory on the guide book's name. Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

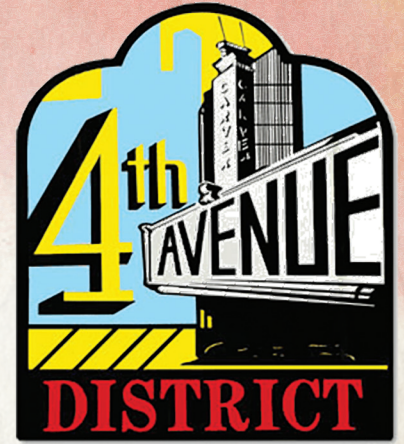


After many years of being closed, the Motel is open again! Come visit to learn more about the Gastons and the Motel.



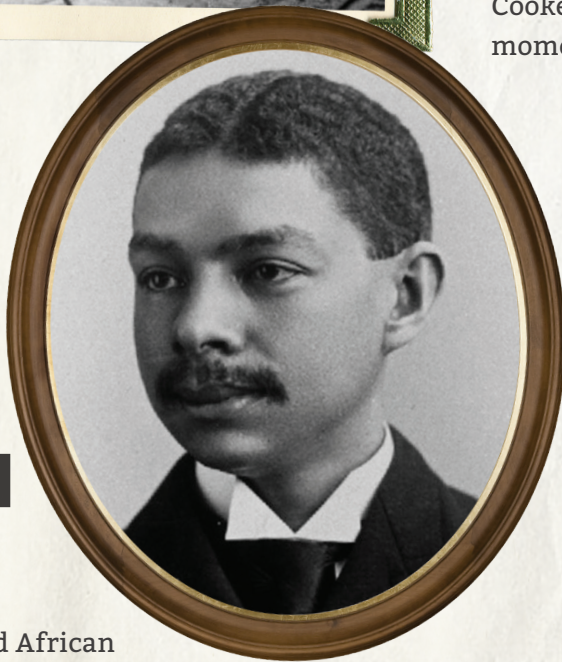


# THE MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING



DESPITE MANY OBSTACLES, AFRICAN AMERICANS CREATED THRIVING COMMUNITIES.

The 4th Avenue Business District was Birmingham's Black Wall Street. It was one of the few spaces African Americans could open their own businesses. Here, they attended movie theaters. Saved money in their own banks. Stayed in their own hotels. Danced to music. Cooked and ate delicious food. Celebrated special moments and carved out joy in a challenging world.










## 1630 FOURTH AVE N.

The first accredited African American architect in the U.S., Robert Robinson Taylor, designed this large, busy building. It is 8 floors tall! During the week, the sound of ticking typewriters trickled out of offices. On the weekends, jazz and dancing feet boomed from the auditorium.

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words to learn about activities in the building. Find the answers at the bottom of the page.

-  DTENITS
-  NSAKC OPSH
-  EHSO AEPRIR
-  YREWLA
-  LBALMOOR
-  BYRLIRA
-  IRHA OLSNA



# BIRMINGHAM'S NATIONAL LEADER

"If it takes being killed to get integration, I'll do just that thing. For God is with me all the way."

REVEREND FRED SHUTTLESWORTH, ON THE NIGHT HIS HOME WAS BOMBED BY WHITE SUPREMACISTS, DECEMBER 25, 1956.

Visit The Historic Bethel Baptist Church to see what remains of the home.

Despite beatings and bombings, Rev. Shuttlesworth fought to change unfair laws. He led marches and boycotts. Integrated buses, railroad stations, schools, and the police force. Every single day, he did his best to change Birmingham and the nation for the better.

List 2 words that describe Rev. Shuttlesworth:



Corresponding Secretary of the ACMHR, Lola Hendricks, helped organize support and logistics for the marches and department store boycotts. She and her husband were also the two named parties in lawsuits filed against the city to end segregation in public parks and libraries.



In 1956, Alabama officials forced the NAACP to close its offices across the state. Rev. Shuttlesworth stepped up and created a new civil rights group. To protect members, he studied the law. The law said religious organizations did not have to publish membership lists. Neither did state-run groups. So he named his organization in a very strategic way...

## Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights

- Underline the word that shows it is a religious organization.
- Circle the word that shows it is a state organization.
- Draw a box around the words that represent what the organization seeks.
- Put a star over the word that shows this organization takes action.

To learn more about why Rev. Shuttlesworth did this, visit the Movement Gallery at Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.



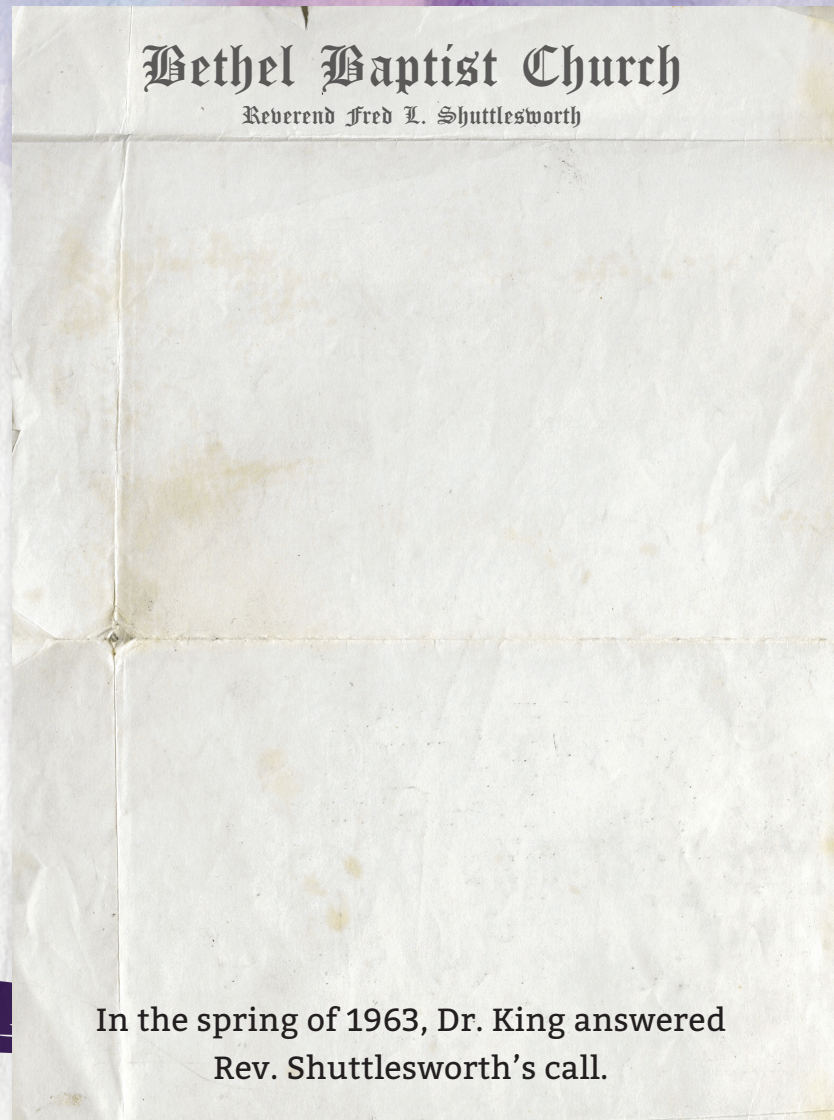
# BUILDING A TEAM

In 1963, Rev. Shuttlesworth and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked together through the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Rev. Shuttlesworth decided to ask Dr. King to help lead the movement in Birmingham.



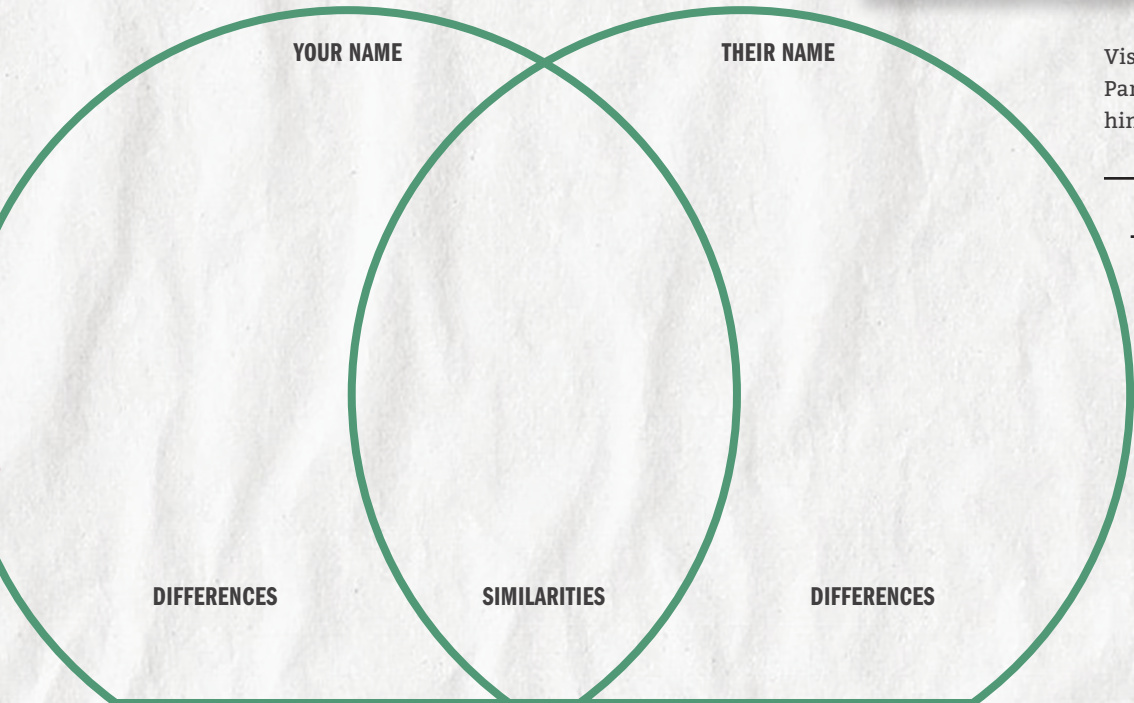
Friends King and Shuttlesworth had different backgrounds, personalities, and strengths. Together, they made a powerful team.

IMAGINE YOU ARE REV. SHUTTLESWORTH. WHAT WOULD YOU WRITE TO DR. KING TO CONVINCHE HIM TO COME TO BIRMINGHAM TO HELP DESEGREGATE THE CITY?



In the spring of 1963, Dr. King answered Rev. Shuttlesworth's call.

Compare yourself to someone you like to play or work with. Write down your differences in the circles and similarities where the circles overlap.



Visit Dr. King's statue in Kelly Ingram Park. Why do you think people called him a "drum major"?

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# PROJECT C IS BORN

Project C ran from April 3–May 10, 1963. The goal: End segregation and discrimination in Birmingham. “C” stood for confrontation.

## MATCHING ACTIVITY

Draw a line between Project ‘C’ activities pictured on the right and the corresponding names and descriptions on the left. The first one is completed for you. Answers below.

### SIT-INS

Taking a seat at a segregated restaurant. This is a form of direct action.

### BOYCOTTS

Refusing to buy things from stores that discriminate. This is a form of passive resistance.

### MARCHES & PROTESTS

Public demonstrations to raise awareness about issues. This is a form of direct action.

### MASS MEETINGS

Gathering at local churches to plan and lean on faith.



Music helped to inspire and build courage. What song makes you feel fearless? Write down some of the lyrics below:

## SPIRIT & SONG

Online, listen to Mamie Brown sing “I’m On My Way to Freedom Land.” Brown (left) helped create the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights’ Choir.

Write one word that describes how listening to this song makes you feel:

1: BOYCOTTS | 2: MARCHES & PROTESTS | 3: SIT-INS | 4: MASS MEETINGS



DOZENS OF BLACK CHURCHES PARTICIPATED IN PROJECT C. THREE ARE CONNECTED TO BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

## THE HISTORIC BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

It Began at Bethel: This church launched the civil rights movement in Birmingham. Who was the pastor at Bethel Baptist Church? (hint on page 12)

Visit the church. Write down what you learned.

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## ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (UMC)

It was founded in 1869, two years before the founding of the city of Birmingham and four years after the end of slavery. African Americans began building the current structure brick by brick in 1925. Visit the church. Write down one thing that you learned.

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St. Paul UMC was the starting point for the 1963 Palm Sunday march. Mass meetings filled the basement. The church also hosted trainings so people felt prepared to be peaceful in the face of hatred and difficulty.

The church continues to lift up children today. In the mid-90s, a middle school student named John Collins designed one of the biggest stained glass windows in the church. When you visit, see if you can spot the basketball in the window designed by John!

A love story took place at this church. When you visit, ask about Joseph Lowery and Evelyn Gibson. Color in the heart to the right.



## 16TH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH

...is one of the oldest Black Baptist churches in the city. Today it hosts tours and has a museum. Many marches started from the church.

Turn to page 20 to learn more about the church's significance.

Visit the church and write down one thing you learned:

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Design your own stained glass window. You can include anything you want!



# POWER OF THE PEN

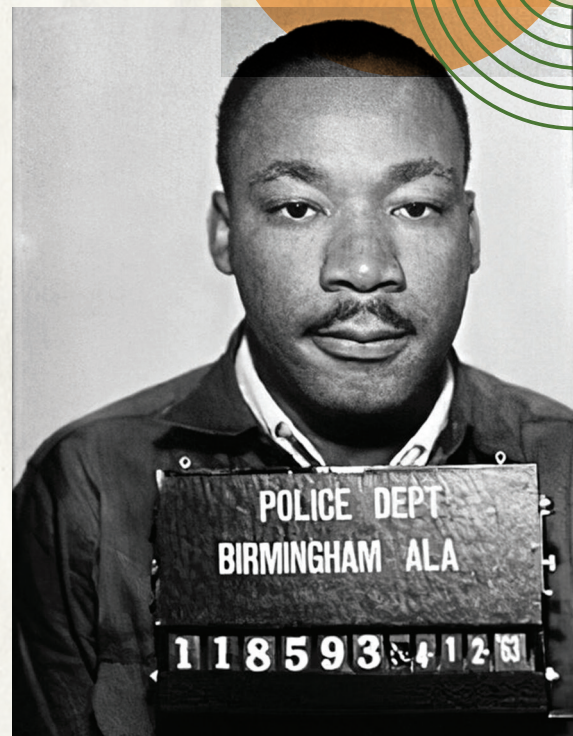


Despite the progress made, many were scared to participate in the demonstrations. Dr. King, Rev. Abernathy, and Rev. Shuttlesworth decided to lead by example. When city officials denied them a parade permit, the leaders decided to march anyway, knowing they would get arrested. This was an example of **civil disobedience**\*

Bail to get the Reverends out of jail was \$2,500. Find an inflation calculator online. How much would \$2,500 in 1963 be today?

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While in jail, Dr. King read a "Call for Unity." It was written by White clergymen (church leaders like himself) and printed in the newspaper. The clergymen called the demonstrations "unwise and untimely." They told both White and Black people to wait and "observe the principles of law and order and common sense."



Have you ever felt let down by someone? Remember that situation. Make a face that shows what it felt like to you.



➤ **Civil disobedience:** Refusing to follow certain laws as a peaceful form of political protest.



Write, draw, sing, rap, or dance about this topic: "What freedom means to me."

From his jail cell, Dr. King read the clergymen's advice. Afterwards, he felt moved to write. Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" became famous. Here are some excerpts from that letter. Read the excerpts out loud. Speak slowly and carefully.

"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

"For years now I have heard the word 'Wait!' It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This 'Wait' has almost always meant 'Never.'"

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is...the white moderate who is more devoted to 'order' than to justice...who constantly says 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action;' who paternalistically feels that he can set the time-table for another man's freedom..."

"...we who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We bring it out in the open where it can be seen and dealt with."

"I wish you had commended the Negro sit-inners and demonstrators of Birmingham for their sublime courage, their willingness to suffer and their amazing discipline in the midst of the most inhuman provocation. One day the South will recognize its real heroes...One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters they were in reality standing up for the best in the American dream..."





Read the next 2 pages then  
**CIRCLE YES OR NO**

# CAN CHILDREN BE SUPERHEROES?

Many adults were hesitant to march. They could get fired from their jobs! Children didn't have to worry about paying bills, so movement leaders encouraged them to march. Over 1,000 children participated May 2-11, 1963. Many were in elementary school. Some were as young as 6 years old. They were beaten. Attacked by dogs. Sprayed with fire hoses. Arrested. But as a result of their courage, leaders in our country realized that these unjust laws had to change. Much of the Children's Crusades took place around **Kelly Ingram Park**.

MAY 2-11, 1963



Visit Kelly Ingram Park.  
Walk among the statues.  
Use the cell phone tour  
to learn more.

Police officers arrest footsoldier Mattie Howard on May 8, 1963.

## KELLY INGRAM PARK



Want the passport stamp  
for Kelly Ingram Park?  
Ask at the Birmingham  
Civil Rights Institute.

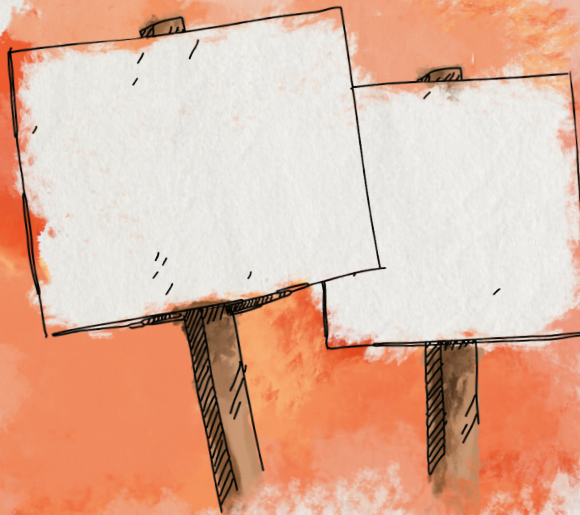




# USING THEIR VOICE



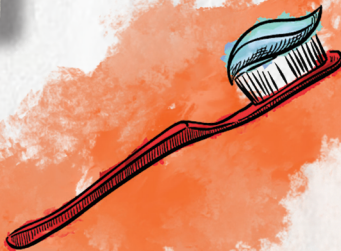
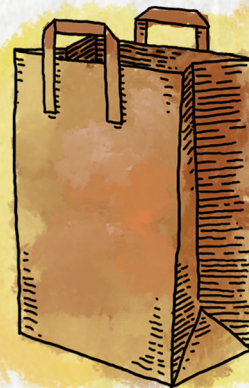
Write Your Own Sign - What Would You Say?



## WHAT WOULD YOU BRING?

Circle the items you'd want to have with you if you might be jailed.

Gwendolyn Webb, then 14 years old and now a Reverend, brought an extra brown paper bag to curl her hair. She said, "We knew we were going to jail but still wanted to be cute!"



1,100 Black children in Birmingham were expelled for taking part in street demonstrations. Lawyer Constance Baker Motley overturned the expulsion and got them back in school.

Janice Kelsey packed her toothbrush, soap and deodorant in her purse.



# BIRMINGHAM: THE WORLD IS WATCHING



Press photographs Birmingham's Commissioner of Public Safety, Bull Connor.

The press helped shine a spotlight on the Jim Crow South. Headlines grabbed the attention of people across the world.

If you were a reporter at this press conference on May 8, 1963, write down one question you'd ask the youth who demonstrated:

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Pictured are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the left, Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth in the middle, and Rev. Ralph Abernathy on the right. They held a press conference at the A.G. Gaston Motel on May 10, 1963.

What did they announce? The conclusion of Project C. In exchange, the city promised to desegregate soon, expand employment opportunities for African Americans, and drop charges against the children who marched. How long did it take the city to fulfill its promises?

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Visit the Motel and ask yourself, "What were they thinking and feeling in that moment?"

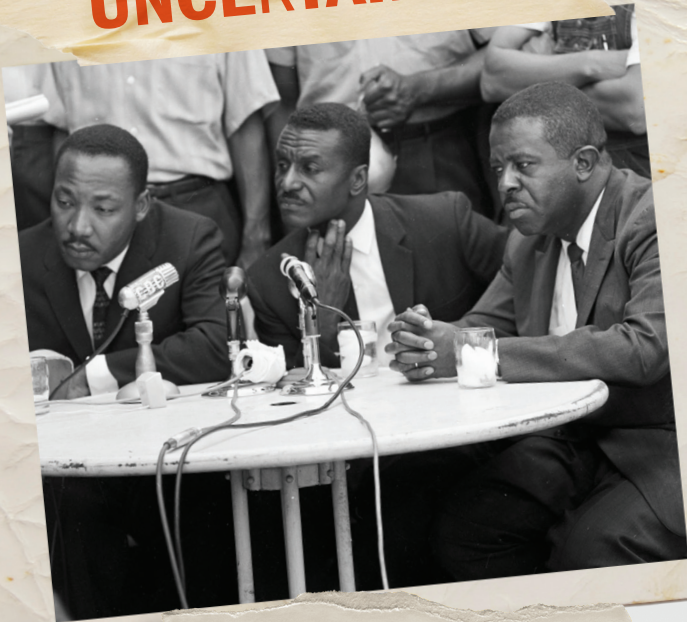
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## UNCERTAIN END



MAY 10, 1963

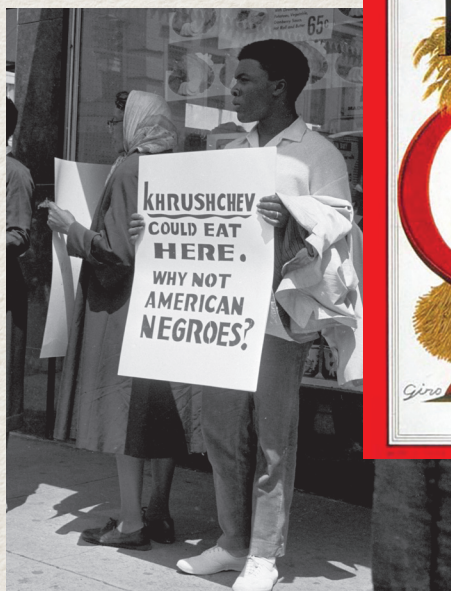




During the civil rights movement at home, the U.S. government was involved in a **Cold War\*** with the Soviet Union abroad. American officials said the Soviet and Cuban leaders threatened freedom and democracy. Many people saw a contradiction. How could the U.S. protect freedom and democracy abroad, while denying it to citizens at home? Protesters pointed out that White Soviet leaders could eat in U.S. restaurants. But Black Americans could not.

**“Any hostile move anywhere in the world against the safety and freedom of peoples to whom we are committed...will be met by whatever action is needed...”**

**PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ADDRESS DURING THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 22 OCTOBER 1962, JFK LIBRARY**



Based on what was going on in the U.S. at the time, do you think President Kennedy's statement was contradictory? Write your response to the right:

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## INTERVIEW AN ADULT

Find an adult born on or before 1950. Pretend to be a reporter and ask them the following:

What is your full name?

When were you born?

What is your strongest memory of the civil rights movement?

What changes have you noticed since 1963 in regards to equal opportunities for all?

➤ **Cold War:** A war of ideas with the threat of physical violence. It was mainly between the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Other countries, like Cuba, picked sides and got involved. It lasted from 1945-1991. The U.S. and Russia disagreed over how to govern. Both wanted to be the main influence in the world. The conflict spurred the development of nuclear weapons and the race into space.



# A DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in schools was unconstitutional. The case was *Brown v. Board of Education*. Nine years later, schools in Alabama were still segregated. After Project C, where children marched for desegregation and equal opportunity, the Federal Government pressured Alabama to integrate schools.

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) responded with violence. Sunday morning, September 15, 1963, dawned like any other. What happened at 16th Street Baptist Church that morning changed the world.

It was Youth Day, meaning the young people were leading parts of the service. Excitement filled the air. Five young girls gathered in the ladies' restroom, chatting. What no one yet knew is that white supremacists had placed dynamite right outside this very restroom the day before. At 10:22am, the dynamite exploded.

Four of the five girls died. Say out loud the names of the girls who lost their lives.

**ADDIE MAE COLLINS**

**CAROLE ROBERTSON**

**CYNTHIA MORRIS WESLEY**

**DENISE MCNAIR**

One girl survived, but lost her right eye. Say her name, too:

**SARAH COLLINS**

Later on that same day, two other Black children were killed. Visit Kelly Ingram Park to learn their names and their story.

Visit 16th St. Baptist Church to answer:

How long did it take for the white supremacists to be convicted?





The title for the Sunday school lesson that day was:

## THE LOVE THAT FORGIVES

The church continues to embrace forgiveness. This takes strength. It can also take time. Forgiveness is a process of healing and growth.

After winter, we find the bloom of spring. Hope, beauty, and change are seeds waiting to grow.

In his eulogy for the girls, Dr. King said "They did not die in vain. God still has a way of wringing good out of evil."

Why is forgiveness important to you?

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Color in the flower. Sometimes when we have strong feelings, taking a creative break can help us feel better.





# WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?: BIRMINGHAM & BEYOND

What happened in Birmingham paved the way to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But the fight was and is not over... This list includes a few of the major milestones of the 1960s after Project C ended.

## SEPTEMBER 16, 1963

The day after the 16th St. Baptist Church bombing, a White lawyer named Charles Morgan delivered a speech called "A Time to Speak." He condemned the White community's silence and demanded Birmingham change. Morgan was run out of town.

## JANUARY 23, 1964

The Constitution is always changing! On this date, officials add the 24th Amendment. It eliminates poll taxes in national elections. Poll taxes are a form of voter suppression.

## FREEDOM SUMMER 1964

Less than 10% of African Americans in Mississippi had registered to vote. Registration is like adding your name to an official list. You must get on the list before voting. Volunteers came to Mississippi to register more African Americans.

## JULY 2, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This prevents discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

## FEBRUARY 4, 1965

A Memorial Window was presented to 16th Street Baptist Church by the People of Wales. It was designed by John Petts.

## MARCH 1965

Activists protest voter suppression by marching. They march over 50 miles toward the state capitol! To learn more, visit the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

## AUGUST 6, 1965

President Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act makes voter suppression illegal.

## OCTOBER 2, 1967

Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

## FEBRUARY 29, 1968

The Kerner Report is released. Established by President Lyndon B. Johnson to understand the cause of racial unrest in 1967, the Report cited lack of economic opportunity, failed social services, police brutality, racism, and the White-oriented media.

## APRIL 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated. The nation mourns his loss. To learn more about his legacy, visit Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

## APRIL 10, 1968

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 passes. It legislates housing equality. Redlining is now illegal.

## SPRING 1968

The Poor People's March was an effort to demand human rights and economic justice for America's poor. Dr. King served as one of the major organizers. The last years of his life he focused on the common struggles of poor people regardless of race. What would Dr. King think of how we are doing today?

“Some men may little note or soon forget what we say here: but the Nation will never forget what we did here together. We were not satisfied with the few scattering cracks in the Segregation wall, and decided to effect a major confrontation with evil.

— Rev. Shuttlesworth





# IT'S NOT OVER

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." The civil rights movement in Birmingham inspired others in this pursuit. Women, the LGBTQ+ community, the differently-abled, immigrants, and more. Civil rights activists gave us the map and showed us the way. Today, life is better. But we are still on that arc. In 2020, the tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others ignited a new movement for human rights.

Can you help?

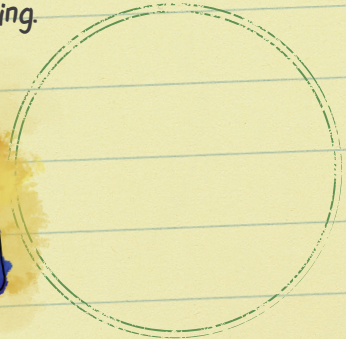
## PRESERVING THE STORIES FOR THIS GENERATION & THE NEXT

The city of Birmingham fought integration in the 1960s. Today it celebrates civil rights history. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute opened in 1992. Inside you can learn about the path toward equality. It is a museum, research institution, and place of community conversation.

**ODESSA WOOLFOLK**  
Founding President of BCRI



*The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute signifies that Birmingham does not hide from its past. It acknowledges that where once the city housed two people, Black and White, unknown to one another except through the painful thread of segregation, Birmingham now embraces its past, neither forgetting nor dwelling on it, but using it to foster understanding.*





# WHAT YOU

# CAN DO



## DREAM IT

Write down 1 thing you'd like to do to improve in your community.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAN IT

Write down 3 steps you could take to make this improvement:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Let us know how it goes! Email us at [BICR\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:BICR_Information@nps.gov)

## BUILD IT

Assemble your team. What role will you play? Who else will help? List up to 3 people below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## DO IT

Write down dates and times that you can accomplish your goals below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# BICR JUNIOR RANGER CERTIFICATE



## THIS CERTIFIES THAT

\_\_\_\_\_

Has successfully met the requirements to become a Junior Ranger of

**BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**BIRMINGHAM, AL**

\_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger/Certifying Adult

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Produced in collaboration with our partners:

