The Rev. J.W. Loguen, as a slave and as a freeman: a narrative of real life / Loguen, Jermain Wesley [1859]

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Civil Rights movement for African Americans in Tennessee began when the first blacks settled in the state in the eighteenth century, and continues to this day.

During the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, great strides were made in the area of equal rights through the efforts of many blacks and whites acting sometimes individually but mainly in an organized fashion.

The emancipation brought by the Civil War resulted in the flourishing of black culture and the election of black officials, but also in race riots and Jim Crow laws. Students and activists in Tennessee’s major cities were influential leaders in the modern Civil Rights movement, which culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

From the Library of Congress:

- Teachers Page, Themed Resources: Civil Rights
- African American History Month
- African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship
- Brown v. Board of Education at Fifty
- Voices of Civil Rights
- Today in History, March 7: First March from Selma
- Today in History, December 1: Rosa Parks Arrested

Also see:

- “Civil Rights Movement” from the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture
- “Sit-ins, Nashville” from the TN Encyclopedia

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

Civil Rights primary sources are great for teaching about Slavery, the Civil War, the Great Depression, and just about every era in American history, in addition to the modern movement of the 1950s and 60s. Sources about the struggle for political and social equality also open up debates that resonate with current events.

Use the Library of Congress Web site (starting with the links and images you see here) to find sources that speak to both sides of a civil rights debate. Have students divide into two groups to represent both sides. Such activities can strengthen skills in historical context, points of view, and empathy.

How has the civil rights movement evolved through the different eras of American History? How does it define American culture? How do documents, photographs, and sound recordings capture different aspects of the struggle?
Johnsonville, Tenn. Camp of Tennessee Colored Battery [1864]

Rappahannock River, Va. Fugitive African Americans fording the Rappahannock [1862]

Slavery’s passed away; Pete. 1888 Courtesy of Duke University

U.S. Serial Set, Number 1274 House Report 101, 39th Congress, 1st Session, Pages 2 through 36, Memphis Riots and Massacres [1866; detail]

Race Riot Started at Nashville, Tenn. [from newspaper] [1918; detail] Courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society

Interview. Scott Martin. [between 1936 & 1938; detail]
Mary Church Terrell, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front [between 1880 and 1900, printed later]

The progress of colored women / by Mary Church Terrell ... [1898]

Fish restaurant for colored in the quarter cotton hoers are recruited, Memphis, Tennessee, [1937]

Cotton hoers loading at Memphis, Tennessee for the day's work in Arkansas [1937]

Audio Recordings:
Folk song: Cornfield Song by Henry Truvillion [1939]
Veterans History Project interview: Elvyn V. Davidson (excerpt about segregation)

Henry Truvillion and wife, in the garden, near Newton, Texas [between 1934 and 1950]

Clinton, TN. School integration conflicts [1956] (left, above)
Background Map: 1961 Freedom Rides

**Images in Thumbnails Which Do Not Expand**
(i.e., under uncertain copyright):

- **Billboard with photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King and others seated in a classroom at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn.; caption reads: Martin Luther King at Communist Training School**
- **Saturday afternoon outside a movie house in Nashville, Tennessee - altercation as Negro tries to attend**
- **Nashville police officer wielding nightstick holds African American youth at bay during a civil rights march in Nashville, Tennessee**
- **John Lewis being ushered into a police patrol wagon during a racial demonstration in Nashville, Tenn., as a number of people watch**

**Fisk University, Jubilee Hall, Seventeenth Avenue, North, Nashville, Davidson County, TN** (3. West side and south front / HABS TENN,19-NASH,7A-3)

John Lewis at a meeting of American Society of Newspaper Editors, bust portrait, seated at a table before a microphone [1964]
CITATIONS: CIVIL RIGHTS IN TENNESSEE

Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date. The access date for each of these entries is February 4, 2010.


“[Johnsonville, Tenn. Camp of Tennessee Colored Battery].” Photograph. 1864. From Library of Congress, *Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865*. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwar:@field(NUMBER+@band(cwp+4a39514)).


“[Mary Church Terrell, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front].” Photograph. Between 1880 and 1900, printed later. From Library of Congress, *By Popular Demand: "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures, 1850-1920*. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/suffrg:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b47842)).


CITATIONS cont.


Additional links provided are hyperlinked to their bibliographic information and are not included in this list of citations.