

Know these key terms/people/events!!

SNCC	Bull Connor	Governor Wallace	Civil Rights Act 1964
CORE	SCLC	Medgar Evers	Selma March
sit-ins	A Philip Randolph	Freedom Summer	Voting Rights Act 1965
Freedom Rides	Letter from a Birmingham Jail	Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman	Bayard Rustin
SCLC	March on Washington	24 th Amendment	Malcom X
			Black Panthers

Episode 1 is about Brown vs Board of Education, and the horrific murder of Emmett Till.

Episode 2 is about the desegregation of Central HS in Little Rock, AK (we watched it!)

Episode 3 AIN'T SCARED OF YOUR JAILS (1960–1961)

Covers the Nashville **sit-ins and boycotts** that sought to end racial segregation at lunch counters in Tennessee and the **Freedom Riders** efforts to end segregation on interstate transportation and terminals throughout the southern United States.

1. What were the strategic choices student leaders made in their battle to overcome segregation in Nashville? How did their choices affect the terms of the larger struggle against discrimination?
2. The students called their strategy nonviolent direct action. What does this term mean? What was necessary for their strategy to be successful? Why do you think the leaders of the civil rights movement used Nashville as a model for their nonviolent strategy?
3. How did the activists hope to change the way people throughout America thought about segregation?
4. How do you explain Nashville Mayor Ben West's change of heart in response to the protests?
5. Both local and federal officials were unwilling to enforce legal decisions that outlawed segregation. How did the students try to pressure the government to enforce the law?
6. How did the Freedom Riders' strategy test the government's willingness to enforce the law?
7. How did the Freedom Riders' strategy anticipate the violent response of white segregationists? How did they plan to use that response to their advantage?
8. Some people argued that the Freedom Riders took unnecessary risks with their own lives; others felt that such risks were necessary to force the federal government to take responsibility for enforcing the law. How do you evaluate their decision to risk injury?

Episode 4: NO EASY WALK (1961–1963)

Examines the failed attempt by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Albany, Georgia to end segregation and the subsequent lessons learned to win a major victory in Birmingham, Alabama during the Birmingham campaign. The film also covers the **March on Washington**, one of the largest political rallies for civil rights in United States.

1. What was the political slogan of Governor Wallace of Alabama?
2. How did participants evaluate the success and failure of the events in Albany, Birmingham, and Washington? How would you evaluate them?
3. What strategies did movement activists employ in their efforts to transform Albany, Birmingham, and the nation? What kinds of resistance did they meet? Did their actions meet success or failure?
4. Must a nonviolent movement provoke a violent backlash in order to achieve its goals? What other strategies could the protestors have used to expose the violence and injustice of segregation?
5. What is the role of the media in exposing injustice and influencing public opinion?
6. This episode tracks the expansion of the Southern civil rights campaign into a true mass movement. What events, people and factors contributed to this change? Be specific.
7. How did the actions of Bull Connor influence President Kennedy?
8. To what extent was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom a turning point in the Civil Rights movement?

Episode 5: MISSISSIPPI: IS THIS AMERICA? (1962–1964)

Chronicles the **murders of Medgar Evers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner** in Mississippi. The film also covers the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) attendance at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City during the **US presidential election of 1964**.

1. Why do you think this episode is titled “Mississippi: Is This America?” How were the challenges in Mississippi similar to those in other Southern states? How did the situation in Mississippi highlight the racial barriers and attitudes faced by the nation as a whole?
2. Why did activists focus on voter registration in their efforts to dismantle segregation in the South? What obstacles did blacks face as they tried to exercise this basic freedom?
3. What was the role of white activists in a movement that focused on black freedom? What leverage did they bring? Why did some activists challenge their participation? What do you think about their involvement?
4. In Jackson, why did Medgar Evers urge blacks to boycott stores? What happened to student demonstrators in Jackson? What happened to Medgar Evers?
5. What strategies were employed during Freedom Summer to reverse years of intimidation, segregation, and discrimination in Mississippi? How did the various components of the program connect?
6. Explain the fate of Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney.
7. What tensions and conflicts in the mid-twentieth century democratic process did the MFDP expose in its struggle for recognition by the Democratic Party?

Episode 6: BRIDGE TO FREEDOM (1965)

Examines efforts to restore voting rights in Selma, Alabama during the **Selma to Montgomery marches**.

1. Why do you think it was becoming difficult to keep the movement for black equality non-violent?
2. Why was Martin Luther King awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December, 1964?
3. What different strategies did activists in Selma use to draw national attention to discrimination in voting rights?
4. How did nonviolent direct action force people in Selma and around the country to assess their accepted customs and their consciences? What role did the press play?
6. Was the black leadership in Selma united or divided? Explain.
7. What choices did local and national leaders make in response to the events in Selma?
8. Why did activists demand federal intervention in Selma?
9. How effective were the nonviolent tactics in Selma? How did they help reshape American democracy?
10. How would you sum up the events of 1965?

Episode 7: THE TIME HAS COME (1964–1966)

Focuses on black militancy and the roots of the black power movement.

1. How do the various people featured in this episode describe the obstacles black Americans faced in their pursuit of freedom?
2. What are the different visions of freedom and democracy articulated in this episode?
3. How did the call for black power shape the direction of the freedom struggle?
4. How did Malcolm X’s vision challenge practitioners of nonviolent direct action? Why do you think his ideas resonated with many SNCC activists?
5. Did black separatism and black nationalism offer a long-term, democratic solution to racism and discrimination in America? Did these strategies offer a way to the “prize” the civil rights movement sought?
6. What role should group identity and racial pride have in politics?

Episode 8: **Two Societies (1965–1968)**

Chronicles Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Chicago Freedom Movement in Illinois and the tumultuous Detroit Riot of 1967 in Michigan.

1. What new challenges did the movement face when it shifted its focus to urban centers in the North? How did the struggle there differ from the struggle in the South? What factors were similar?
2. What were the characteristics of discrimination in Northern urban slums? How does discrimination differ from segregation? Was the struggle against discrimination harder than the battle against segregation in the South?
3. In what ways did the civil unrest in the mid-1960s challenge the leadership, strategies, and philosophy of King and the SCLC?
4. What is the distinction between a protest and a riot? What conditions make it most likely for a protest to turn violent? Why did the conflicts in Los Angeles and Detroit escalate into riots?
5. What role did the riots play in the movement for black freedom?

Episode 9: **POWER! (1966–1968)**

Explores the influence of the idea of black power on the freedom movement.

1. Why did the producers of Eyes on the Prize name this episode “Power!”?
2. What were the various definitions of black power within the movement?
3. What steps did black Americans take to gain control of their lives? How did their efforts inspire others?
4. In a democracy, what can people do when they lose faith in the government? Use support from the episode.
5. How much community control do you think is workable in a multiethnic democracy? Use support from the episode.
6. What issues did the community-controlled school initiative in Ocean Hill–Brownsville try to resolve? What tensions did it expose?

Episode 10: **THE PROMISED LAND (1967–1968)**

Reviews the final months of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and the immediate aftermath of his assassination

1. Are poverty and economic inequality civil rights issues?
2. What relationship did King see between the war overseas and poverty at home?
3. What dilemmas did King encounter when he spoke out against the Vietnam War? How did he wrestle to reconcile his moral objection to the war with his responsibility as a leader?
4. What strategies did the SCLC employ in its campaign against poverty? Why did the Poor People’s Campaign face so much resistance?
5. How can a movement continue after the death of its charismatic leader?