

## ACTIVITY TWO: LEARNING WITH THE FILM

### Answers to the “Questions” portion of the activity

- In the beginning, the film shows business signs that tell how Blacks and Whites were segregated. What do the signs say?  
*The signs read “White only, no pets” and “No color trade solicited.” There also are two water fountains, one marked “White” and one marked “Colored,” as well as a sign that reads “Colored waiting room.”*
- What was the average yearly income for a black person in Mississippi in the 1950s?  
*Blacks made around \$700 a year.*
- What single act wrote black people out of the political system?  
*Being denied the right to vote was the single act that wrote black people out of the political system.*
- What does it mean to do “a white man’s work at a black man’s wages”?  
*Blacks would work the same as white people but they got paid much, much less.*
- How old was Emmett Till? Why was he murdered?  
*He was 14 years old. He was murdered for speaking to a white woman.*
- What does it mean in the film when it says that Mose Wright “knew his place”?  
*He knew how to be subservient to white people.*
- Emmett Till was from Chicago. Why is this significant?  
*Emmett did not know the customs of the South because he was from the more liberal North that allotted Blacks more rights and freedoms.*
- What did Emmett Till’s mother ask to be done at his funeral? Why was this important to the Movement?  
*She wanted an open casket so that the nation could see the physical violence of racism. It was important because the image of Emmett Till’s brutal death brought national attention and sympathy to the plight of Blacks. The view of his disfigured remains led to international outrage over racism in the South.*
- What was the race of the jury for Emmett’s trial? Why was this important?  
*The jury was all white. Racist Whites would not likely convict a white man for killing a black man. Both men on trial were acquitted of Emmett Till’s murder even though they had admitted to killing him.*
- Where were Blacks in the courtroom during Emmett’s trial? What does this tell you?  
*Blacks were confined to a separate corner of the courtroom. It means that if the courtroom was segregated, how could Blacks hope to receive justice under the law in it?*
- Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam were identified as the killers and even admitted to the murder, but the all-white jury took only an hour to declare them not guilty. What does this tell you?  
*It tells you that the jury was racist.*
- A few months later, Blacks met at Holt Street Baptist Church in Montgomery to discuss their continued abuse. What event had happened only a few days earlier that prompted this meeting?  
*Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man riding the bus and had been arrested.*
- What race were the bus drivers of the all-black routes? How did they treat the paying customers? If passengers didn’t do what the drivers said, what would happen?  
*They were white. Passengers were slapped and beaten. Some had been arrested and shot.*
- How old was Martin Luther King Jr. when he was chosen to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott?  
*He was 26 years old.*
- What did Blacks do instead of taking the bus?  
*They walked, organized their own car pools and taxis.*
- How many days did Blacks stay off of the buses?  
*They stayed off the buses for 381 days.*
- What did the mob at Central High School do to the nine black students who tried to integrate the school in Little Rock, Ark.?  
*They yelled and spat on them, harassed and threatened them, and some white people demanded that they be lynched.*
- How did the nine teenagers typically get to school?  
*Armed guards picked them up at home and took them to school.*
- One of the Little Rock Nine, as they were known, said that going to school every day was like going to war every day. What did he mean by this?  
*Each of the nine students had a military guard with a machine gun who protected them and stayed with them the entire day. Every day the nine students lived with the threat of danger and death just like in a war.*
- The Little Rock Nine inspired young college students to action. What was the first thing they organized in the winter of 1960?  
*They did sit-ins at the Woolworth’s segregated lunch counter.*
- What did the white people in the restaurants do to the peaceful protesters?  
*They beat them, spat on them, yelled, cursed, sprayed them with food and burned them with cigarettes. They were arrested, and some students were suspended from their schools.*

22. The video shows footage of white people violently beating peaceful black protesters but when people are arrested, who is taken to jail? Why do you think this is so?  
*The black protesters are seen being led off to jail. The police were corrupt too.*
23. What philosophy did the Movement use?  
*They used the philosophy and discipline of non-violence.*
24. In Virginia and the Carolinas, the Freedom Riders suffered intimidation, but what happened once they got to the Deep South?  
*The bus was surrounded and the tires were punctured. The Klan then followed the bus, set it on fire and when the Freedom Riders left the burning bus they were severely beaten.*
25. Who set the bus on fire?  
*Klansmen set the bus on fire.*
26. What happened to the riders of the second bus?  
*The riders of the second bus were badly beaten by Klansmen in Birmingham.*
27. What happened when the Freedom Riders got to Montgomery?  
*The Freedom Riders had been assured police protection from Birmingham to Montgomery, but when they got to Montgomery the police patrol disappeared and Whites attacked and severely beat the riders.*
28. One of the Freedom Riders said “our bodies became living witnesses to the cause of human dignity.” What does this mean?  
*Their physical wounds bore witness of the violence of racism.*
29. What happened to the Freedom Riders in Jackson, Miss.?  
*The Freedom Riders were arrested and put in jail.*
30. Who was killed in the Sunday morning bombing at the Birmingham Sixteenth Street Baptist Church? Who did the bombing?  
*The Klansmen killed four little girls: Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley.*
31. In 1964, hundreds of students from the North traveled to Mississippi to help Blacks register to vote. How were they first received? Why? What were Blacks afraid would happen if they registered to vote?  
*At first, Blacks were scared of the volunteers because they represented potential trouble. Blacks were afraid they'd be beaten, killed, lose jobs, be denied credit or have their houses burned down.*
32. Why were Whites against Blacks having the right to vote?  
*There were more of them, and they'd have more power if they voted.*
33. Why do you think the four- or five-page test to register to vote was so difficult to pass?  
*It would keep Blacks from registering and, thus, voting.*
34. What happened to Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman? Why did their deaths bring national attention?  
*They were arrested and charged with speeding. The sheriff released them, but they were followed by the Klan who beat them, tortured them and finally shot them. The reason their deaths brought national attention is that Schwerner and Goodman were white.*
35. When the FBI was dragging the river looking for these three men, who did they find?  
*They found bodies of other Blacks who had been murdered and dumped in the river.*
36. Who was charged with the killing of the three civil rights workers? Were they convicted?  
*Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price and Sheriff Lawrence Rainey were charged. They were not convicted because the state of Mississippi refused to charge them with murder.*
37. In Marion, Ala., 50 percent of the eligible voting population was black, but what percentage of them were registered to vote?  
*Only one percent of black people were registered to vote.*
38. Who was Jimmy Lee Jackson trying to protect when he was killed?  
*Jimmy was trying to protect his mother and grandfather from being beaten by a state trooper.*
39. At Jackson's funeral, how long did the mourners walk in the rain before they could get to the Blacks-only cemetery?  
*They had to walk four miles in the rain.*
40. What did Jackson's tombstone say?  
*Jackson's tombstone said, "He was killed for man's freedom."*
41. What was “Bloody Sunday”?  
*During the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Sheriff Clark and state troopers beat marchers. One marcher said, "The entire road was spotted by blood."*
42. Who do you see participating in the march from Selma?  
*The march was completed 14 days after the first one began and involved was a cross-section of everyone: Blacks and Whites, young and old, Protestants, Catholics, Jewish people and rich and poor.*