

Willie Shelby

Grade: 5

Lesson Plan: Civil Rights & Robert Gardner Farm (Campsite 3) Lesson Plan: Civil Rights & Robert Gardner Farm (Campsite 3)

Lesson Overview

Students will explore the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 and the pivotal role of Robert Gardner's farm Campsite 3 and the Voting Rights Movement. They will connect themes of local activism, community solidarity, and personal sacrifice to broader civil rights goals.

Alabama State Social Studies Standard: 12a Describe ways in which the Civil Rights Movement sought to create change.

Examples: boycotts, church meetings, school desegregation, sit-ins, tenant farmers' strike, voting rights protests.

Duration: 30 Minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the significance of the Selma–Montgomery March and the farm's role in the Voting Rights Movement.
- Identify challenges faced by marchers (weather, threats, physical fatigue).
- Analyze how local support (e.g., the Gardner family) strengthened the civil rights cause.
- Reflect on the importance of individual and community courage in social change.

Materials:

- Projector/smartboard
- Image of Robert Gardner Farm campsite sign

Handouts:

- Brief NPS summary (from campsite site)
- Map of the 5-day march route
- Brief National Park Service Summary about the Campsite

Chart paper, Markers, Reflection Journals

Lesson Activities

1. **Hook (5 min):** Display the campsite image and ask: *“Why might a single farm be so important to a national movement?”* Gather varied ideas.
2. **Background Story (10 min):**
 - Introduce Selma to Montgomery March (March 21–25, 1965).
 - Explain vote suppression and its influence on federal legislation—Voting Rights Act.
3. **Case Study: Campsite 3 (15 min):**
 - Distribute and read NPS overview. Highlight:
 - Soaked marchers; hay laid over mud; tents and mattresses failing
 - Gardner family facing violent threats for their support .
4. **Map & Timeline Activity (10 min):**
 - Trace the march route; mark Campsite 3 at ~34 miles.
 - Discuss challenges crossing “Bloody Lowndes” and the symbolism of Black landownership .
5. **Reflective Exit Ticket (5 min):**
 - *“What motivated Robert Gardner to risk helping the marchers despite threats?”* Share thoughts.

March to Montgomery Map, 1965

