

High School History Thematic Unit Plan Sample

Unit Title: The Civil Rights Movement

Grade Level: 10

Length: 3 weeks

Unit Overview

This unit explores the major events, figures, and impacts of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Students will investigate how individuals and groups advocated for equality and how their actions influenced American society.

Essential Questions

- What were the causes and key events of the Civil Rights Movement?
- How did individuals and groups work to bring about change?
- What is the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement today?

Standards

- Analyze causes, consequences, and turning points of the Civil Rights Movement (HS.1)
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources related to social movements (HS.4)

Learning Objectives

- Identify key leaders and events of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Analyze the strategies and challenges of activists.
- Interpret primary source documents from the era.
- Connect historical events to ongoing discussions of civil rights.

Assessment

- Document analysis of speeches and letters
- Group presentation on a movement leader
- Essay: Civil Rights Movement impacts today
- Class discussions and participation

Unit Schedule

Week	Topics	Activities
1	Origins and Early Protests	Lecture, timeline creation, documentary viewing
2	Major Events and Leaders	Primary source analysis, group research, discussions
3	Outcomes and Legacy	Debate, essay writing, unit reflection

Resources and Materials

- Primary source documents (MLK, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, etc.)
- Excerpts from history textbooks
- Documentary films and news footage
- Online archives and digital exhibits

Differentiation and Accommodations

- Modified reading materials
- Graphic organizers for notes

- Audio/video support
- Alternative project formats

Reflection

- What did students find most compelling about the unit?
- What strategies benefited diverse learners?
- How could future instruction address remaining questions?