Different Perspectives: Injustices in American Society

Time: 2 –3 days: 90 minute block

Lesson Objective:

- **Standard:** To analyze the economic, political, social, and cultural transformation of the United States since World War II
- **Benchmark:** H-1B-H15
- **Grade Level Expectation GLE:**
  - Identify the primary leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and describe major issues and accomplishments.
  - Identify and describe the social and cultural changes from the 1960’s to the present.
  - Evaluate various means of achieving equality of political rights. (e.g., civil disobedience vs. violent protest)

**Essential Question:** What were the inequalities and the various means used to achieve equality and political rights?

**Materials:**

- Overhead projector
- 3 poster boards
- Markers
- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speech “I have a Dream”
  [http://www.pbs.org/greatspeeches/timeline/m_king_sl.html](http://www.pbs.org/greatspeeches/timeline/m_king_sl.html)
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War Statement by John Kerry to the Senate Committee of Foreign Relations
  [http://pages.xtn.net/~wingman/docs/kerryst.htm](http://pages.xtn.net/~wingman/docs/kerryst.htm)
- from Letter from Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King, Jr.
**Instructional Strategies Used:**
- Triangular Venn Diagram
- Cooperative Learning Groups
- Story Plan

**Directions for the lesson:**

- Each student will receive a copy of the three articles.
- “I have a Dream,” “Vietnam Veterans Against the War statement”, and “Letter from the Birmingham Jail (read together as a class)
  Use the “story plan” black-master to analyze each speech (see attachment)
- After the students finish the “story plan” analysis sheet, give each student a triangular Venn diagram
- Divide students into groups of four. Each group must complete the Triangular Venn Diagram for the three articles
- Compare each group’s Venn Diagram (from experience, there are never two that are the same)
- The teacher will provide three (3) poster boards (or equivalent). The three poster boards are for the three articles.
- Divide the class into three groups. (example: I have a dream, Vietnam Veterans, Letter from Birmingham Jail)
- Each student from each group must write at least one thing about the article they were assigned
- As a whole class, analyze and discuss the responses for each poster on the perspective articles
- End of class activity: Learning Log (a reflection)
  What have you learned from reading the three letters about civil injustices in America? How does it make you feel? Have things improved since 1960-1970?

**Assessment:**

1. According to King, what do Jesus, Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Jefferson have in common.
   
   a. They are all extremists
   b. They are all pacifists
   c. They are all liberals
   d. They are all conservatives
2. According to Lyndon B. Johnson, which was NOT a reason for American Involvement in Vietnam?
   a. To stop aggression from North Vietnam
   b. To secure South Vietnam’s natural resources
   c. To strengthen world order
   d. To improve the quality of life for South Vietnam

3. According to John Kerry, which of the following was true about South Vietnam’s attitude towards foreign presence in Vietnam.
   a. They wanted to left alone on peace
   b. They sided with whichever military force that was present at that particular time
   c. They did not know the difference between Communism and Democracy
   d. All of the above

4. Do you agree or disagree with Martin Luther King that it could be good to Create tension in an unjust situation? Explain your answer.

Alternative Assessment

- Students will create a poster that protests against a civil injustice during 1960-1970.
- Students will prepare “Picture Notes” (pictures and symbols) illustrating the major events during 1960-1970.

Enrichment Activity

Students will research and examine articles from “The Student Voice”, the official newspaper of SNCC to further discuss the various means used to achieve equality and political rights.
Conclusion:
Story Plan

Setting

Characters

Problem

Goal

Events

Resolution
Brutality Hearing Held In Capital

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A public hearing on Mississippi will be conducted here June 8.

The hearing, sponsored by the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), will be held at the National Theater. Members of Mississippians who are victims of various kinds of reprisals, discrimination, police or unofficial brutality, before a panel of disinterested persons.

The panel includes: Dr. Robert N. Forman, Paul Goodman, Lorraine Hansberry, and Joseph Heller; Malcolm X; Judge John P. Thayer; and Ernest Seidman, a former member of the American Sociological Association. Testimony will also be heard from Robert Coles, a professor at Harvard University, and others who will speak about the necessity for substantial action in Mississippi.

According to a director of the Mississippi Vote for Freedom project in Mississippi, the testimonies of the Mississippians are being brought together to clarify the nature of the situation in Mississippi. The hearing was held to testify that the Mississippi Civil Rights Commission has been conducted a hearing.

MISS. NEGRO VOTE CURTAILED IN CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY

Rev. John Cameron, who was a candidate for the Democratic House in the 5th Congressional District.

MISSISSIPPI PREPARES FOR SUMMER PROJECT

JACKSON, Miss. - As civil rights workers complete plans for the Mississippi Summer Project, the state has been tightening legislative screws to halt as many phases of the project as possible.

The state has been tightening legislative screws to halt as many phases of the project as possible. As a Mississippi newspaper put it, there is a "statewide movement to erect a bulwark against anticipated racial demonstrations in Mississippi this coming summer." Part of this bulwark has been the recent enactment of six new laws aimed at the project by the state legislature.

An AP story in the Jackson Daily News April 28 explained that the Mississippi legislature's program of "quietly arming the state for an expected invasion" continued on page 2.

Continued on page 3.
LEGAL BARRIERS TO GREET WORKERS

BACKGROUND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by civil rights workers had received little notice because state solons "do not discuss racial bills on the floor and give only a minimum of explanation." The reason, the AP story continued, was that state legislators were fearful such speeches would be used by the Federal government in civil rights cases to show the intent of the law was to maintain segregation and was therefore unconstitutional.

New Laws Passed

1. RIOT CONTROL. Authorities cities to "pool" personnel, manpower and equipment and, and general, give "maximum assistance." Introduced in the state Senate as bill 5352, the measure was enacted and signed into law by Governor Paul B. Johnson, facilitates exchange of jail space as well as the pooling of city police forces. It is assumed the city of Jackson will be prominent in assisting other cities in "riot control." In recent months the city has strengthened its police force and laid in an extra supply of gas masks, shotguns and helmets according to Jackson newspapers.

2. curfew. Authorizes cities to "restrict the movements of individuals and groups" and to set curfew hours. (House bill 64).

3. A law which BOOSTS THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL to almost double its present size gives state police full power in civil disorders as well as undercover investigations. Prior to the enactment, those officers were restricted to traffic law enforcement. The law has had special backing from the governor since he requested the legislation in a speech before a joint session of the state legislature March 5. The new law gives the governor personal power to send state police into areas even over the heads of local law enforcement. Originally introduced in the House as bill 544, the controversial measure passed despite opposition from some state solons who feared it might be used to control illegal liquor practices in this dry state.

In referring to the law which expands the patrol from 275 to 475 men a Greenville daily, the Delta Democrat-Times said, "A private army which can be used at the governor's own discretion is not a healthy kind of temptation to have around." It was reported in January that every member of the state police then on the force had been trained in riot control techniques. Colonel T.B. Birdsong, commissioner of public safety, said these men in turn trained police and sheriff's officers across the state.

4. ANTI-PICKETING. Prohibits picketing of all public buildings, streets and sidewalks and other places belonging to the city, county and state. The maximum penalty on conviction is $500 and /or six months in jail. Constitutionalism of the new law is presently being tested in Federal court by 44 persons arrested in Hattiesburg April 10-11.

5. INCREASED PENALTIES. Larger penalties, which may be assessed by municipal courts as a result of enactment of Senate bill 1517. Maximum fines by be raised from $100 to $300 in county courts and maximum jail terms from 30 to 90 days. This would apply to traffic violations which have been lodged with increasing frequency against rights workers as the summer approaches.

6. OUTLAWS DISTRIBUTION OF BOYCOTT LITERATURE. Senate bill 5493 was introduced by a state senator from Canton, where a boycott to pressure for an end to discriminatory practices by merchants and businesses has been underway since January. The new law provides for a maximum penalty of $500 a nd/or six months in jail for printing or circulating materials concerned boycotting.

Rights worker who maintain this law, and the anti-picket provision, are flagrantly unconstitutional.

State Legal Code

The state Sovereignty Commission - official watchdog agency to perpetuate segregation - has mailed a "handy" reference digest of statutes already on the books to law enforcement officers throughout the state with the suggestion that they be used to halt civil rights activity.

State code sections suggested by the state subsidized group for use in racial matters are the following:

* Congregating and refusing to disperse when so ordered by a law officer (maximum fine $200 and/or four months in jail).
* Interfering with customers or the operation of restaurants, stores, hotels and theaters (maximum fine $500 and/or six months in jail).
* Making false statements to Federal authorities-FBI, courts, Justice Department, Civil Rights Commission - about denial of constitutional rights by the state or its agents (maximum fine $1,000 and/or six months in jail).
* Encouraging another person to remain on the premises of another "when forbidden to do so" (maximum fine $500 and/or six months in jail).

Laws Considered

1. OUTLAWS COMMUNITY CENTERS. - Senate bill 5492, if passed, would require certification by the state of all clubs or schools where general education and general health subjects would be taught. Some project plans call for community centers where instruction in child care, dietary health and housing repair would be offered. The measure also arms the attorney general with injunctive power to "disallow any operation which does not have permits."***

Other Laws

1. Two bills passed in the House which would keep Negroes from serving on juries in the state by restricting selection to registered voters on a parish basis and to registered voters. Only 60 percent of the voting age Negroes in Mississippi are registered to vote.

2. A juvenile demonstrate measure provides that youth arrested in racial demonstrations be excluded from juvenile courts.
SIT-IN CASES NEAR HIGH COURT HEARING

ATLANTA, GA. — "Sit-in" cases arising from SNCC-led non-violent protests were being heard by a federal court. The cases are part of a larger court case that began in January.

The cases are filed against the U.S. government by students and others who have been charged with violating the Civil Rights Act. The charges include violating the Civil Rights Act, interfering with the peaceful assembly of others, and obstructing the function of the federal court.

The court is scheduled to hear the case in the coming weeks. The defendants include students and others who have been arrested for their involvement in the protests.

PRIMARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Less than 7% of Mississippi's voting age Negroes are registered. This summer, a concentrated vote drive will be held as part of the Mississippi Summer Project.

SUPPORT THE MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT!

Enclose your contribution of $__________

1 pledge $____ per month to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

CITY: ___________________________ STATE: ____________

Contributions to SNCC receive a subscription to the STUDENT VOICE. Send to: SNCC, 9 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30314.
INTIMIDATION
IN ALABAMA
ON PAGE TWO

THE STUDENT VOICE
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IN GREENWOOD
111 ARRESTS MARK MISS. FREEDOM DAY

FORMAN CALLS FOR FEDERAL PROTECTION

GREENWOOD, MISS. — In what
SNCC Executive Secretary James
Forman described as "infringements
of the 1960 and 1964 Civil Rights Acts and the First
Amendment," 111 local Negroes,
SNCC workers, and Mississippi
Summer Project volunteers were
arrested here after a Freedom
Day on July 16.

On July 17, the cases were
removed to Federal court.
SNCC has been working in
Greenwood since 1962. Green-
wood's first "Freedom Day" was
held March 25, and resulted in
the arrests of 14 workers nation-
ally residents. A second "Free-
day" was held April 9; 46 persons were arrested.
The jailing were made as in-
tegrated groups picketed the Le-
flor County Courthouse, carry-
ing signs urging Negroes to reg-
ister.

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CHURCH BURNINGS STILL UNCHECKED

FLASH: At press time STUDENT VOICE learned that three more
churches have been burned in Mississippi. Details and pic-
tures next week.

GREENWOOD, MISS. — Another
church burning in Mississippi on
July 17 raises the total burned
or bombed to 10; 1 SNCC re-
ported this week.
The most recent burning oc-
curred in McComb, July 17, when
the Zion Hill Baptist Church
burned to the ground. The chur-
ch, located west of McComb on
Route 44, had not been used for
civil rights activity.
Two other burnings occurred
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

GREENWOOD POLICE drag pregnant rights worker during a
Freedom Day to increase Negro voter registration.