Eyes on the Prize
Civil Rights worksheet

**Part I Emmett Till** (10:00 minutes)

1. What court case had ruled segregation in public schools was unconstitutional?

2. How many documented lynchings had occurred in Mississippi prior to the Murder of Emmett Till?

3. What northern City did Emmett Till travel to Mississippi from?

4. Why was Emmett Till killed?

5. Where was Emmett Till’s body found?

6. Why did Emmett Till’s mother insist upon an open casket?

7. What was the defense argument in the trial?

8. Who was the star witness for the prosecution?

9. How long did the jury deliberate? What was the verdict?

10. What did the Defendants tell Reporter William Bradford Huie?

**Part II Montgomery Bus Boycott** (5:40 minutes)

1. Parks was arrested in Montgomery Alabama for refusing to give up her bus seat. How long after the Emmett Till trial did this event take place?

2. Who was elected to lead the boycott? How old was he?

3. Before the Bus Boycott how many of the regular bus riders were African American?

4. How long did the bus boycott last?
Part III Little Rock (12:00 minutes)

1. How did Senator James Eastland from Mississippi feel about the Supreme Court decision Brown vs. B.O.E.?

2. Who was the Governor of Arkansas?

3. What were the Governor’s orders to the Arkansas National Guard on the first day of school in Little Rock?

4. After meeting with President Eisenhower what action did the Governor take?

5. How did President Eisenhower respond to the demonstrators at Little Rock High School?

6. What happened to Minnie-Jean Brown in the lunchroom of Little Rock High School?

7. What kinds of cards were being passed around the school after the lunchroom incident?

8. What happened to Ernest Green on May 29, 1968? How many white students graduated?

Part IV Sit-ins (10:40 min)

1. Who was the Mayor of Nashville in 1960?

2. How many Black Colleges were in Nashville?

3. On February 1, 1960, what event took place in Greensboro North Carolina, motivating Nashville students?

4. On February 27, 1960 what happened to the demonstrators in Nashville at the Lunch counters?

5. How many demonstrators were arrested and what were they charged with?

6. How many days did John Lewis spend in jail after refusing to pay the fine?

7. In 1960, what was the estimated economic spending power of the black community in Nashville?

8. What statement did Ben West make on the steps of City Hall?

9. What happened three weeks later?

10. What did SCLC stand for?

11. What did SNCC stand for?
Part V - Who Shall Lead? (8:10 min)
1. In November 1961 a Federal Agency ordered all facilities used for Interstate travel to do what?

2. What happened in Albany Georgia at the bus station?

3. What tension existed between SNCC and SCLC?

4. Which of these two organizations was Dr. Martin Luther King associated with?

5. In July of 1962, Dr. Martin Luther King began serving a 45 day sentence in Jail. Why was he released after only 3 days?

6. What lessons did the SCLC learn from their experience in Albany?

Part VI – Birmingham 1963 (10:27 minutes)
1. Who was the Governor of Alabama in 1963?

2. “Segregation now, Segregation tomorrow, and Segregation forever” were spoken by whom?

3. What nickname did some people give to Birmingham Alabama after racial attacks involving bombs?

4. Who was the Birmingham Commissioner of Public Safety?

5. Finish the quote from Dr. King’s Letter from the Birmingham Jail:
   a. Justice to long delayed is ....what?

6. How many school children were arrested in the May 2nd Birmingham demonstrations?

7. Why was this effective strategy?

8. What strategies were used by Bull Connor against the demonstrators?

9. How was Media used during this demonstration?

10. How did the Russian newspapers use these images?

11. Who was Robert Shelton – what was his response to the Birmingham demonstrations?
Part VII – No Easy Walk (9:00 min.)

1. What was President Kennedy’s response?

2. What happened on August 28th, 1963?

3. Eighteen days after the March on Washington and Dr. King’s famous speech what happened at a church in Birmingham Alabama?

4. What effect did this tragedy have on the non-violent movement?

5. In response to this tragedy, what were the two options considered by the demonstrators?

Part VII – Power and the Vote (8:42 min.)

1. Who was the Civil Rights spokesperson for the Nation of Islam in the 1960’s?

2. In some 1963 Mississippi counties Blacks outnumber Whites by what ratio? How many Blacks were allowed to vote in those same counties?

3. Registration drives led by SNCC were faced by what obstacles?

4. New voting laws required registrants to fill out questionnaires. One of the questions was “Interpret any of the 286 sections of the Mississippi Constitution to the satisfaction of the registrar”. What was a common problem among some of the registrars?

5. Were white registrants asked to follow the same procedure when registering to vote?


7. During the summer 1964, how many Civil Rights workers were arrested?

8. On August 4th, 1964 the bodies of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner were discovered. How had they died?

9. Did the state of Mississippi bring anyone to trial in the case of the three murdered civil rights workers?