

LESSON PLAN

Lesson Title: Local and National Civil Rights Timeline

Grade Level: Adaptable 3 -12th

Length of Lesson: Four 45-minute class periods

Lesson Description:

Students will learn about two major Florence, South Carolina Civil Rights events: the Kress Department Store Protests and the arrest of NAACP National Director, Clarence Mitchell at the Florence Train Station. Students will put these local events into national context by creating a timeline of major local and national civil rights events.

South Carolina State Standards:

Social Studies: 3-5, 5-3, 8-7, USHC-8

Instructional Objectives:

- Students will create a timeline of major local and national civil rights events including, but not limited to: Brown vs. Board of Education, Montgomery Bus Boycott, Desegregation at Little Rock, Greensboro Sit-In, Birmingham Demonstrations, The March on Washington and “I Have a Dream” Speech.

Vocabulary:

Civil Rights
Peaceful Demonstration
Sit-In
Segregation
Desegregation

Materials:

Printed or Photocopied images of major Civil Rights events
Large Poster or Paper Roll
Pencils
Markers and/or Colored Pencils

Florence County Museum Connections:

Civil Rights in the Pee Dee, Pee Dee History Gallery

Questioning:

- How do you think Florence’s Civil Rights events related to the National Civil Rights Movement? Were local events a part of this movement or independent?
- How did local events change or support the course of the civil rights movement?

Instructional Procedures:

1. Students will learn about major Civil Rights Movement events in United States History.
2. Students will learn about two major Florence, South Carolina Civil Rights events: the Kress Department Store Protests and the arrest of NAACP National Director, Clarence Mitchell at the Florence Train Station. Students will write a letter in response to a fictional POW. Have students display understanding by describing life in the US after World War II and asking questions about the repatriation process. Letter should include the 5 parts of a friendly letter: Heading, Greeting, Body, Closing, and Signature, and may include a Post Script.
3. Students will work in small groups to create a timeline of major local and national civil rights events. You may wish for students to add images (photographs or illustrations), names of participants, and other important details. Encourage groups to be creative in the way that they present information. You may want students to differentiate between local and national events in some way.
4. You may wish for students to present their timelines in class or display them for others to see.

Closure:

- How do you think local Civil Rights events provided an opportunity to Florence residents to become involved in the national Civil Rights Movement?
- How did these local events bring attention to the Civil Rights cause in Florence in a way that national events did not?

Information about additional Civil Rights events in Florence can be found at flocomuseum.org/pee-dee-connections-lesson-supplements.



Florence County Museum
111 West Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29501



PEE DEE CONNECTIONS

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ABOUT THIS POSTER

Responding to a wave of successful civil disobedience demonstrations across the Southeast, local high school students and members of the youth chapter of the NAACP organized two days of protests in downtown Florence. The target of the demonstrations was unequal treatment of black customers at the lunch counter of the S.H. Kress department store on W. Evans Street. The protest took place over two days, Thursday and Friday, March 3 and 4, 1960.

The Florence protest was significant in that it was a peaceful protest organized and carried out by high-school aged children. Other demonstrations in the South and in South Carolina were spontaneous events carried out by college students, some of which resulted in riots.

At approximately 2 pm, Thursday, March 3, approximately 25 protesters marched from Trinity Baptist Church and entered the Kress department store from the east entrance. Several of them took seats at the lunch counter and were refused service. When asked to leave, they remained seated. Store management and police then approached the lunch counter and announced that the lunch counter and store were closing. Lights in the store were turned off, at which time the protesters left. The store was re-opened moments later.

Not discouraged by the previous day’s events, the demonstrators returned in greater numbers. This time, two groups, totaling approximately 70 individuals, approached the two entrances to Kress from the north and west. A police blockade had been set up to intercept one group, which rerouted to join the others. As the crowd attempted to gain access to the Dargan Street entrance, the door was barricaded and police surrounded the protesters. 48 people were arrested on charges of “parading without a permit.” The youngest person arrested was a 12-year-old girl.

After two years of legal actions, all defendants in the resulting court hearings were acquitted of charges by the South Carolina State Supreme Court on the grounds that the city’s ordinance preventing assembly violated the federal Constitution.

The Kress lunch counter closed to the public in shortly after the demonstrations and re-opened in 1965.

The Community Arts Program is part of an arts integration program through the Florence County Museum. Funding for this program is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Trustees of the Florence Museum**.



Florence County Museum | 111 West Cheves Street | Florence, South Carolina | 843.676.1200 | flocomuseum.org

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



from FMN, Thursday, March 4, 1960

"A group of about 30 Negro youths congregate on the lunch counter in S.H. Kress and Co. in Florence. The Thursday demonstration, occurring about 2 pm, was the first in Florence. A few minutes after members of the Negro group took seats in the store, Police Chief Melvin D. Adams announced the store was closed. The demonstrators quietly left. Shortly afterward the store reopened featuring a display of trash cans at the lunch counter, where stools had been removed."

North Side 100 Block of West Evans Street.