

The Mid 1950's





The Main Idea

- Following the Brown v. Board (1954) decision, the Civil Rights movement picked up speed as the mid-1950 were marked by activism and violence.



The Case of Emmett Till 1941- 1955

Background



- Emmett Till was a 14 year old from Chicago.
- He was visiting his family in Mississippi.
- He and a group of teenagers went to a store.
- When he showed the teenagers a picture of a white girl who was one of his friends back home and bragged that she was his girlfriend, one of them said, "Hey, there's a [white] girl in that store there. I bet you won't go in there and talk to her."
- Emmett went in and bought some candy. As he left, he said "Bye baby" to Carolyn Bryant, the wife of the store owner, according to some accounts. Others say he whistled at her.



Lynching

- Four days later, Roy Bryant and his half brother J. W. Milam kidnapped Emmett from the house of his great uncle, Moses Wright.
- They brutally beat him, took him to the edge of the Tallahatchie River, shot him in the head, fastened a large metal fan used for ginning cotton to his neck with barbed wire, and pushed the body into the river.
- Emmett's decomposed corpse was pulled from the river three days later.
- His great uncle identified the body from a ring with the initials L.T.





The Case

- The men were arrested and tried in a segregated courthouse in Sumner, Mississippi
- Mose Wright pointed them out in court when asked to identify the men who had taken his nephew.
- The men were acquitted after the jury deliberated for 67 minutes.





Emmett Till Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V6ffUUEvaM>



THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



Montgomery Bus Boycott



- Montgomery law required African Americans to sit in the back of the bus and give up their seats to white people.
- Rosa Parks refused.
 - This was planned.



Montgomery Bus Boycott

- Rosa Parks was arrested, and the NAACP called for a one-day boycott of the city bus system.
- Community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association and selected Martin Luther King Jr. as its leader.
- African Americans continued to boycott the bus system for a year—which hurt the bus system and other white businesses.
- After the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional, integration of the buses moved forward.





Order of Operations

- Complete the Montgomery Bus Boycott Assignment