



UNIT 7
STANDARD: SS8H11

AN O-R-Q
CIVIL RIGHTS
TIMELINE

OBSERVE

- What do you notice first?
- What else do you notice?
- What do you notice that you didn't expect?

REFLECT

- What do you think is happening?
- What generalizations or conclusions can you draw?

QUESTION

- What do you notice that you can't explain?
- What do you wonder about... who? what? when? where? why? how?

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1946 END OF THE WHITE PRIMARIES

The white primary was used by southern whites to keep African-Americans from voting in the Democratic primary. Due to the fact that Georgia was a one-party state at the time, the Democratic primary was essentially the election, thus keeping African-Americans from truly voting. In 1944, several African-Americans, led by Dr. Thomas Brewer and Primus E. King, a barber and minister, attempted to vote in the white primary in Columbus, Georgia. King was told that he could not vote and forcefully removed from the court house. In 1945, Brewer, King, and several other African-Americans sued the state. In the court case King v. Chapman et al., the federal district court ruled in favor of King and said the white primary was unconstitutional. Governor Ellis Arnall, did not fight the ruling and the white primary ended in Georgia.

- Georgia Dept of Education

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STEP 1: READ THE PASSAGE TO LEARN ABOUT THE PERSON OR EVENT. OBSERVE, REFLECT, and QUESTION WHAT YOU READ

1946 END OF THE WHITE PRIMARIES

The Civil Rights Revolution: Interpreting Statistics

by Steven Mintz

AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTING REGISTRATIONS

State	1960	1966	Percent increase
Alabama	66,000	250,000	378.79%
Arkansas	73,000	115,000	157.53%
Florida	183,000	303,000	165.57%
Georgia	180,000	300,000	166.67%
Louisiana	159,000	243,000	152.83%
Mississippi	22,000	175,000	795.45%
North Carolina	210,000	282,000	134.29%
South Carolina	58,000	191,000	329.31%
Tennessee	185,000	225,000	121.62%
Texas	227,000	400,000	176.21%
Virginia	100,000	205,000	205.00%

OBSERVE

I observed

REFLECT

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STEP 2: ANALYZE THE PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SOURCE DOCUMENT AND TYPE WHAT YOU OBSERVE, REFLECT, AND QUESTION

1946 END OF THE WHITE PRIMARIES

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1946 GOVERNOR'S RACE

The 1946 governor's race was also known as the "Three Governors' Controversy." As the name implies, after the 1946 election three men claimed the governor's office (current governor Ellis Arnall, Lieutenant Governor Melvin Thompson, and Herman Talmadge – the son of Eugene Talmadge. Initially, Eugene Talmadge was elected for his fourth term, however, he died before taking office. Many of Eugene Talmadge's supporters discovered that based on past Georgia law that the General Assembly would have the power to select the second or third leading vote-getter if the governor-elect died before taking office. With this in mind, many secretly wrote in Herman Talmadge (Eugene's son) for governor. However, the new Georgia constitution stated that the lieutenant governor would take office if the governor died. In the 1946 election Melvin Thompson was elected lieutenant governor and claimed the office for himself upon Talmadge's death. Nonetheless, in January of 1947, the General Assembly selected Herman Talmadge as governor. This upset both Melvin Thompson and Ellis Arnall. During the same time, the outgoing governor, Ellis Arnall, refused to leave the office until the issue was solved as he believed that the General Assembly did not have the authority to elect a governor. Herman Talmadge eventually had state troopers escort Arnall out of the capitol and changed the locks of the governor's office. Arnall, in turn, refused to give up the governor's seal and set up a second "governor's office" in a different location of the capitol. Arnall finally gave up his claim to the governorship and supported Thompson. In the end, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that Thompson was the rightful governor and Talmadge left the governor's office within two hours of the ruling. In 1948, a special election was called and Herman Talmadge closely defeated Melvin Thompson.

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1946 GOVERNOR'S RACE



Click on the video button to view a YouTube clip



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1948 HERMAN TALMADGE

Herman Talmadge (1913-2002) was the son of governor Eugene Talmadge. After returning from the war in 1946, he served as the campaign manager for his father's last gubernatorial campaign. Though Eugene won the election, he died before taking office. Though not running for election himself, the General Assembly appointed Herman governor where he served for a short time before the Georgia Supreme Court ruled his appointment unconstitutional. However, in 1948, he easily won in a special election.

As governor, Talmadge successfully lobbied for a state sales tax to support Georgia's public education system. He is also credited for bringing more industry to the state. He was also an unyielding segregationist who fought against the U.S. Supreme Court's civil rights decisions, primarily the desegregation of schools.

- Georgia Dept of Education

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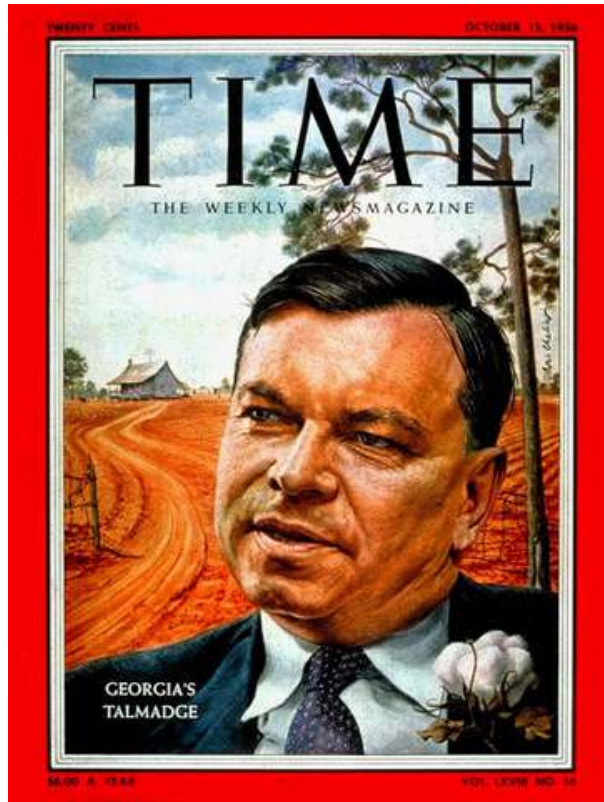
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1948 HERMAN TALMADGE



High Court Favors Intermarriage—Talmadge

Georgia Governor Herman Talmadge and his two top aides charged the U. S. Supreme Court in outlawing Jim Crow public schools is "attempting to force intermarriage of the races." Argued Talmadge in Atlanta: "I expect that court now to knock down every principle affecting the white and Negro races including miscegenation."

OBSERVE

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1948 BENJAMIN MAYS

Though most famous for his role as a mentor for Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Mays (ca.1894-1984) was a leading advocate of civil rights before and after the modern Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s. Born to former slaves and sharecroppers in South Carolina, Mays focused on education throughout his life. Through overwhelming odds Mays earned a Bachelor's degree from Bates College and a Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Before completing his Ph.D., Mays served as a teacher and dean. ***In 1936, Mays traveled to India and met with Mahatma Gandhi where they discussed many of the passive resistance strategies that Gandhi was using against the British. Many of these strategies would be adopted by the civil rights leaders in America.***

In 1940, Mays became president of Morehouse College. Four years later Martin Luther King Jr. entered Morehouse and the two formed a mentor/mentee relationship that would last until King's murder in 1968.

- Georgia Dept of Education

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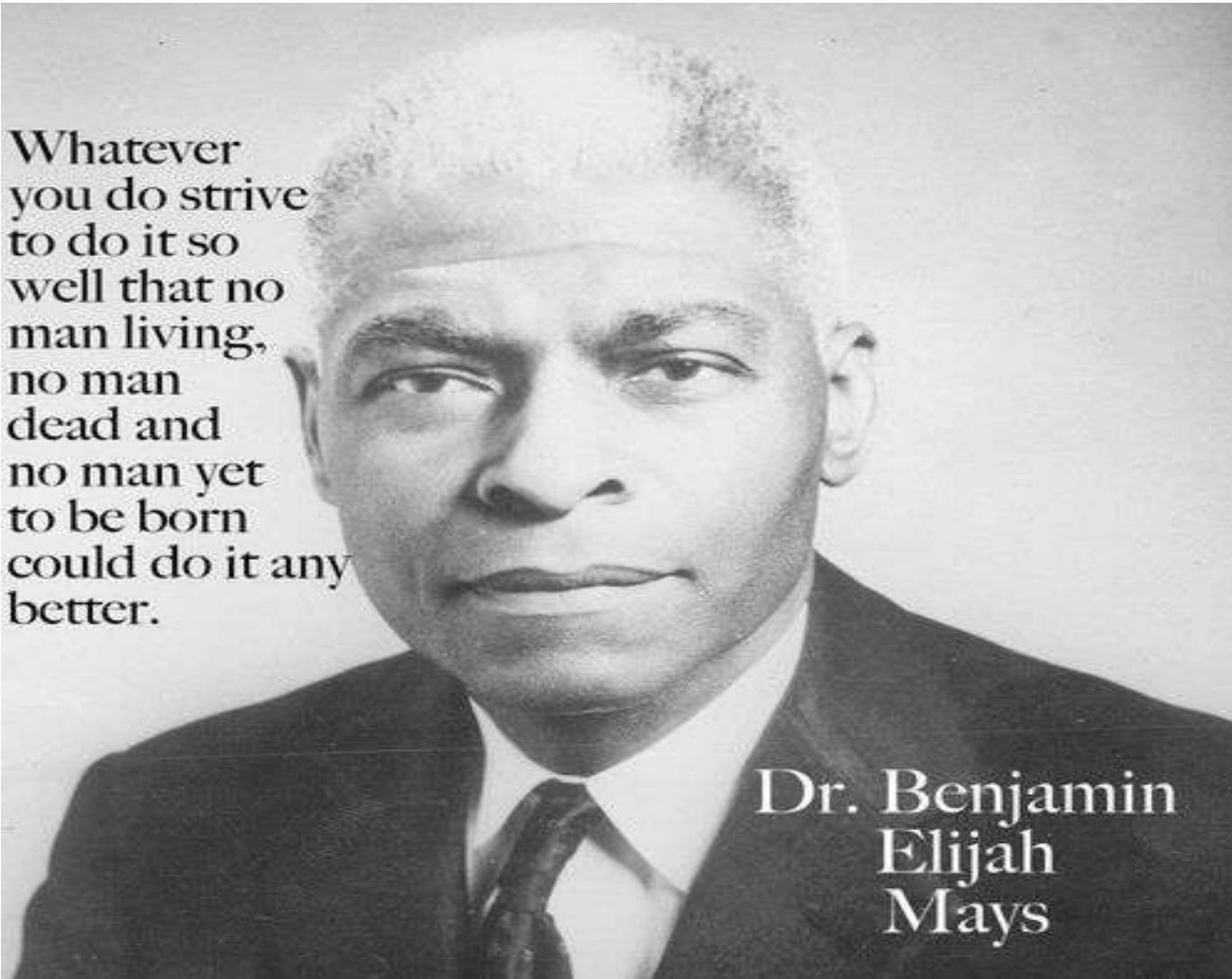
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1948 BENJAMIN MAYS

Whatever
you do strive
to do it so
well that no
man living,
no man
dead and
no man yet
to be born
could do it any
better.



Dr. Benjamin
Elijah
Mays

OBSERVE

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REFLECT

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1954 BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools to be unconstitutional. The Georgia General Assembly was opposed to this ruling and declared the decision null and void. After the decision, the Assembly threatened to stop funding, and in some cases, allow the Governor to close, any school that desegregated. A year later in a case that is often referred to as Brown v. Board II, the court ruled that schools must be desegregated with “all deliberate speed.” This ruling allowed Georgia and many other southern states to “drag their heels” in integrating schools.

In 1960, the Sibley Commission recommended that Georgia allow counties to decide if they would integrate their schools, or not, without state interference. In 1961, Atlanta was the first system to integrate its schools followed by Savannah, Athens, and Brunswick. However, it was not until 10 years later that all school systems in the state were desegregated. According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, many white Georgians even went so far as to set up many private academies to continue segregation in the state.

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1954 BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION



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1955 MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.

Arguably, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) is the most well-known Georgian. His work during the Civil Rights Movement earned him the Nobel Peace Prize and led to the national holiday created in his honor. Due to King's tireless efforts and devotion to non-violent protest, he is often thought of as the "leader" of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Born in Atlanta, King graduated from high school at the age of 15, and began his college studies at Morehouse. As the son and grandson of ministers, King eventually chose the same profession. He earned his Ph.D. in Divinity from Boston University. It was there that he met his wife Coretta Scott.

In 1954, King accepted an offer to become the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. A year later he found himself serving as the spokesman for the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott. After his success with the boycott, King, along with other civil rights groups, attempted a similar action in Albany that was considered to be less successful. According to the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, *King's short career followed a pattern of brilliant victories such as the March on Washington, his creation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and winning the Nobel Peace Prize.*

Nonetheless, King was instrumental in ending segregation and changing America's views on race and racial equality. Unfortunately, while he did not live to see the fruits of his labor, his efforts and leadership have led to an America where some of the ideals from his *I Have A Dream speech have been met.*

Note: Martin Luther King, Jr. is the only African-American to have a federal holiday named in his honor. Also, he is the only African-American and non-president to have a memorial created in his honor on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

Note: In 1958 an assassination attempt was made on Dr. King. An African-American woman in New York stabbed him in the chest during a book signing.

Note: Dr. King's first name was actually Michael until his father took a trip to Europe and changed it in tribute of the protestant reformer Martin Luther.

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1955 MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

ROSA PARKS and the MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT IN 1955



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1956 GEORGIA STATE FLAG

After the Brown vs. Board, ruling many southern states urged their white citizens to display acts of massive resistance against the federal mandates outlawing segregation. One of the ways the Georgia General Assembly showed their disdain for these federal regulations was by changing the state flag. Though the design of the pre-1956 flag was based on the first flag of the Confederate States of America, the 1956 flag was changed to include the Confederate battle flag, a flag that had been adopted by “hate groups” such as the KKK. To this day there is debate on the reasoning behind the change of the flag. According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia some of the legislators favored the change to “mark the upcoming centennial of the Civil War.” However, many people believe the flag was changed to protest civil rights legislation. For example, after the flag was changed, legislator Denmark Groover said the flag would show “that we in Georgia intend to uphold what we stood for, will stand for, and will fight for.” Though denying it for many years Groover admitted toward the end of his life that anger over the Brown v. Board case was a factor in changing the flag.

In 2001, Governor Roy Barnes changed the flag based on the request of many of his supporters and civil rights activists. In 2003, the people of Georgia were allowed to vote on either the 2001 or a new 2003 flag. The 2003 flag won with over 70% of the vote. This flag looked very similar to the pre-1956 flag.

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1956 GEORGIA STATE FLAG



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1960 SIBLEY COMMISSION

After the Brown v. Board supreme court decision, the Georgia General Assembly supported “massive resistance” to the desegregation of Georgia’s public schools. By 1960, Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver was facing the choice of following federal mandates or closing Georgia’s public schools. Not wanting to make the choice without the input of the voters, Vandiver pushed for legislation that would create a committee to investigate Georgians’ opinions on the matter.

John Sibley, a segregationist lawyer led 10 hearings across the state to determine if the people felt that they should continue to resist the federal government or change laws to integrate schools. After the sessions, 60% of Georgians claimed that they would rather close the public schools than to integrate. Despite the findings, Sibley pushed for schools in Georgia to desegregate on a limited basis. Based on the commission’s findings, the legislature was set to vote on the matter in January 1961, but the integration of the University of Georgia shifted the governor’s and the legislature’s focus. After attempting to close the University of Georgia, only to be over ruled by a federal judge, Vandiver gave in and asked the General Assembly to accept Sibley’s recommendations. Later that year, the city of Atlanta desegregated its schools.

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1960 SIBLEY COMMISSION

SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED

LOCAL OFFICIALS run out of options, and the state steps in to preserve segregation.

Six Norfolk schools closed in September 1958 rather than admit Negro students.



OBSERVE

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1960 SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee)

The SNCC (pronounced “snick”) was one of the major civil rights organizations of the 1960s. A national organization formed in North Carolina, it worked with the Southern Leadership Conference and focused on orchestrating peaceful, non-violent protest. The group, made up of high school and college-aged students, became known for sit-ins, freedom rides, and the “freedom summer” in Mississippi.

In Georgia, the group began its focus on the cities of Albany and Atlanta. In Albany, the group was at the forefront of the Albany Movement, which many considered to be unsuccessful. However, the Albany Movement was beneficial in helping the group later organize more successful protests. In Atlanta, the group organized successful sit-ins in the city in 1960. After moving their focus from Mississippi back to Atlanta in 1964, the group was victorious in helping African-Americans gain several General Assembly seats in the reapportionment election; for example, Julian Bond, who was the SNCC’s communications director.

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1960 SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee)



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1961 U.G.A. DESEGREGATION

In 1959, Hamilton Holmes (1941-1995) and Charlayne Hunter (b.1942) did what many young people do after graduation: applied for college. Holmes was his school's valedictorian, president of the senior class, and co-captain of the football team. Hunter was involved in several organizations at her school including the school newspaper and honors society. She was elected homecoming queen and graduated third in her class. Obviously these two students would have been ideal candidates for any institution of higher learning.

However, both were not accepted by the University of Georgia based on their race. Publically the University claimed their rejection was due to lack of housing. After numerous denials, the two students brought their case to federal court. After only three weeks, the court ruled in favor of Hunter and Holmes. They began classes on January 6, 1961.

Soon after arriving on campus, a mob of students, locals, and members of the KKK started a riot on campus and threw bricks and rocks through Hunter's dorm window. The Georgia state patrol escorted both Hunter and Holmes back to Atlanta. A few days later, the court ruled that Hunter and Holmes be reinstated and allowed to return to the campus. Both Hunter and Holmes graduated from the University and though they were not treated well by their peers, they were never in physical danger after the initial riot.

Holmes became a successful doctor in the Atlanta area until his death in 1995. Hunter became a well-respected journalist and is still working in the profession today. In 2001, the University of Georgia celebrated the 40th anniversary of its desegregation by renaming the academic building after Hunter and Holmes.

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1961 U.G.A. DESEGREGATION



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1961 ALBANY MOVEMENT

After the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, civil rights leaders in other southern cities sought to challenge segregation laws. One of the cities selected was Albany, in southwest Georgia. Starting in the fall of 1961, members of SNCC and the local community began to protest the segregationist policies of the city. Massive resistance from whites and the police department led to over 500 protesters landing in jail. However, unlike Montgomery, many of Albany's black middle class did not initially support the protests. In turn, police chief Laurie Pritchett used non-violent tactics to arrest, but not harm the protestors.

To draw more national attention to the cause the SNCC invited Martin Luther King Jr. to take part in the protest. Though arrested many times, King was released from jail almost immediately (though against his will). Chief Pritchett also made sure he had enough room to imprison all the protestors and worked with other counties to send the demonstrators to their jails as well. In the end most of the protestors were jailed leaving very few to protest. By the summer of 1962, King viewed the Albany Movement as a failed attempt to desegregate an entire community, but a valuable learning experience. He used what he learned, including the power of protest songs, in his successful Birmingham campaigns. However, the black citizens of Albany believed that they had accomplished a lot. According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, after King and the members of SNCC left the city, black voter registration led to a run-off election for an African-American nominee for a county commission seat. More importantly, the next spring the "county commission removed all segregation statutes from their books."

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1961 ALBANY MOVEMENT



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1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

In 1963, over 250,000 civil rights activists gathered in Washington D.C. to promote their cause and push for civil rights legislation for 'Jobs and Freedom'. Many of the protestors were of different races who gathered together at the nation's capital. The Lincoln Memorial was a fitting background for the organized march as it marked the centennial anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. During the march, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave what is arguably his most famous speech: "I Have a Dream." The March on Washington led to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and The Voting Rights Act of 1965, and made King the most well-known spokesperson of the Civil Rights Movement.

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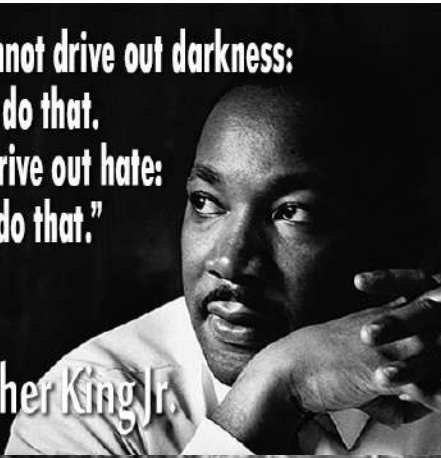
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1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King Jr.
InspirationBoost.com



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1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

Due in part to the March on Washington and the earlier actions by President John F. Kennedy, the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. All bills were signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The descriptions of these are as follows:

The Civil Rights Act of 1964: Forbade discrimination on the basis of sex and race in hiring, promoting, and firing.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965: Prohibited states from imposing any voting qualification on voting or deny the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.

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1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT



“The rights of EVERY man are diminished when the rights of ONE man are threatened.”

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE VOTE

- NORTHERN DEMOCRATS: 145 – 9 (94%-6%)
- NORTHERN REPUBLICANS: 138 – 24 (85%-15%)
- SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS: 7 – 87 (7%-93%)
- SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS: 0-10 (0%-100%)

YES VOTES = 290

NO VOTES = 130

SENATE VOTE

- NORTHERN DEMOCRATS: 45 – 1 (98%-2%)
- NORTHERN REPUBLICANS: 27 – 5 (84%-16%)
- SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS: 1 – 20 (5%-95%)
- SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS: 0 – 1 (0%-100%)

YES VOTES = 73

NO VOTES = 27

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1967 LESTER MADDOX

During a period of great social and political change in Georgia, Lester Maddox (1915-2003) stands out as the last overtly segregationist governor in the state's history. Ironically, Maddox appointed more African-Americans to government positions than all prior Georgia governors combined. He also received support of both whites and blacks alike due to his "little people's days." Twice a month, average people could stand in line to meet with the governor. Nonetheless, Maddox was criticized for not allowing flags at state buildings to be flown at half-mast after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and for his fight against the civil rights platform.

Maddox was born in Atlanta. After dropping out of high school, he worked several jobs, including the Bell Bomber factory during World War II. In 1947, he opened the Pickrick restaurant near the campus of Georgia Tech. He gained fame throughout Georgia due to his advertisements for the restaurant that he placed in the Atlanta Journal newspaper. Later, he was known throughout the nation for his use of ax handles to forcefully remove African-Americans who tried to integrate his restaurant. He later closed the Pickrick rather than allow it to be integrated.

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1967 LESTER MADDOX



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1974 MAYNARD JACKSON

Maynard Jackson (1938-2003) was the first African-American mayor of a major southern city. Jackson attended Morehouse College and graduated in 1956 when he was only 18. He became vice-mayor of Atlanta, and four years later was elected mayor. He was only 35 years old at the time of his election.

Jackson served as mayor of Atlanta from 1973-1981 and again from 1990-1994. While mayor he was instrumental in providing more contract work to black-owned businesses and expanding Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport. He also sought to add more black police officers to the city's police force and to make sure that more African-Americans were promoted in the department. During his term in the 1990s, he worked closely with Andrew Young and Billy Paine to bring the Olympics to the city.

Jackson died in 2003, and In his honor, the city of Atlanta renamed Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

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1974 MAYNARD JACKSON

 **Hartsfield-Jackson**
Atlanta International Airport®



Welcome To
Maynard H. Jackson Jr.
International Terminal



OBSERVE

I observed

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I wonder

1977 ANDREW YOUNG

Andrew Young (b. 1932) was born to middle class parents in New Orleans, Louisiana. Living in Georgia, Young became active in the Civil Rights Movement and primarily focused on voter registration drives. In 1961, Young resigned from his job and started working for the SCLC and began organizing “citizenship schools” that helped trained civil rights volunteers in organizing and taking part in non-violent protest. Young soon became a close associate with Martin Luther King Jr. During his time at the SCLC, he successfully organized demonstrations and voter registration campaigns throughout the South. He was with Martin Luther King Jr. the day he was assassinated.

In 1972, Young began his political career. He was elected as Georgia’s first African- American Congressman since Reconstruction. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him ambassador to the United Nations.

Young was elected mayor of Atlanta in 1981. As mayor, Young was instrumental in the city’s continued growth and national and international prestige. After leaving office in 1989, Young continued to work for Georgia’s economic development, served as co-chair of Georgia’s 1996 Olympic committee, and worked as a consultant for many international organizations which he continues to do today.

- Georgia Dept of Education

OBSERVE

- What do you notice first?
- What else do you notice?
- What do you notice that you didn’t expect?

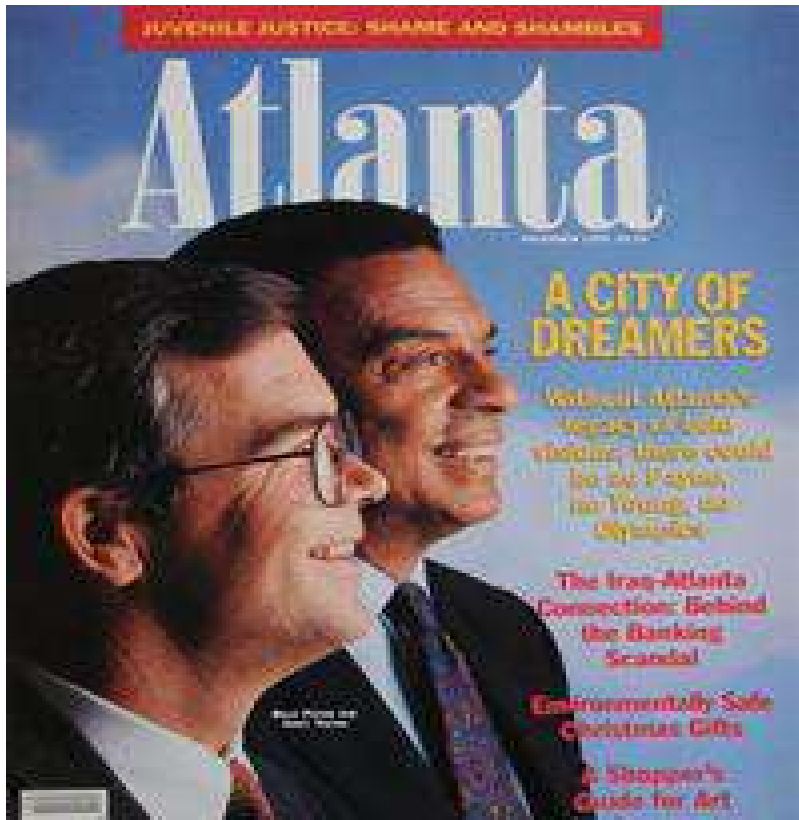
REFLECT

- What do you think is happening?
- What generalizations or conclusions can you draw?

QUESTION

- What do you notice that you can’t explain?
- What do you wonder about... who? what? when? where? why? how?

1977 ANDREW YOUNG



OBSERVE

I observed

REFLECT

I think

QUESTION

I wonder

*A special
thanks to...*



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