

Beyond Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. Biography Study
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Danice Toyias, danice.toyias@mchce.net

Presentation Focus

Biography can be a very powerful tool for studying history, especially when there are individuals you can contrast. However, all too often teachers focus only on these two individuals to teach the Civil Rights Era. This presentation serves to highlight just how much is left out of the study when the focus is only on Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

Presentation Activities and Sequence

- 1) Using the timeline, we will all read about both Malcolm X's and Martin Luther King Jr.'s lives.
- 2) Using the Timeline and Map, trace where the two lived and traveled over their lifetimes.
 - a. Discuss: How did the places in which they lived and travel influence them? How did their early years shape them? Try to determine which year(s) were the most influential on them as people? Which years were their actions most influential on the nation? Why?
- 3) Discussion about the map.
- 4) Any ideas of people that we could study (possible IP topics) in our communities that were part of the Civil Rights Movement? Maybe the movement looked different in MT and the West. Did it? Why?

Resources

“A Time for Justice” Civil Rights Movement Video (very good at depicting the cause, consequences, and the choices of leaders regarding how they would protest)

<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/video/hist171.html>

“A Time for Justice” Lesson Plan for younger students

<http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=565>

“A Time for Justice” Teaching Kit, including the video is available for free through Teaching Tolerance

<http://www.tolerance.org/kit/america-s-civil-rights-movement-time-justice>