

Learning About Amelia Boynton Robinson

Amelia Boynton Robinson was born in Savannah, Georgia on August 18, 1911. Her mother helped African American women by assisting them in registering to vote. Amelia's mother would often take young Amelia along to help her. Her father was a skilled construction worker who also owned a wholesale wood lot. Amelia's parents encouraged their 10 children to work hard and do well in school. Amelia went to college at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.



Amelia and her husband, Samuel William Boynton, worked together in rural areas to teach African Americans better ways to farm. They also helped people to register to vote and get an education. Voter registration forms were impossible to complete for those who were illiterate, or couldn't read. Amelia and her husband taught people how to fill out the forms so they could vote.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Vote:** when a person gets to choose a political candidate or an action/law
- **Civil rights movement:** an effort led by African Americans to end racial discrimination and gain equal rights
- **Discrimination:** when someone is treated unfairly based on their race, religion, or gender
- **Protest:** to say or show that you disagree with something

The Boyntons met Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1954 and got involved in the civil rights movement. They held meetings in their home for the movement. They organized marches and protests. In addition to her activism in the civil rights movement, Amelia Boynton Robinson ran for Congress in 1964 as the first African American woman candidate.

In March of 1965, Amelia helped organize a march from Selma to Montgomery to protest discrimination against African Americans. That day became known

as Bloody Sunday because police beat the protesters during the march. Amelia was hurt by police officers when crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The march helped to bring about the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This law makes it illegal to discriminate against African Americans when it comes to voting rights.

Amelia Boynton Robinson died in 2015 at the age of 104. She was an important civil rights activist who fought for equal rights throughout her life.

Name _____

Date _____

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Directions: Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

1. Amelia Robinson was an important activist in the _____ movement.

2. Who did Amelia meet in 1954? _____.

3. How did Amelia help African Americans?

4. a) What event did she help organize in 1965?

b) Why was this event important?
