## The Selma to Montgomery March

Alabama

A goal of the civil rights movement in the United States was to achieve equality for all citizens in the United States, no matter the color of their skin. The movement began after the Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama in 1955 where people refused to use the bus. The boycott was a peaceful protest against racially assigned seating on the bus.

Peaceful protests were one of the main ways to attract attention to the inequalities African Americans faced on a daily basis. Another type of protest during the civil rights movement was peaceful marches where people would walk together, holding hands or singing.

In 1965, a determined group of 600 people marched from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama for voting rights, and in response to the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson. He had suffered a gunshot wound from a state trooper during a protest for voting rights.

Even though the first march from Selma began on March 7, it was postponed because of "Bloody Sunday". During "Bloody Sunday," state troopers knocked down marchers, hit them with clubs, and used tear gas on them. Days later, the second march occurred with Martin Luther King, Jr., where he prayed at the same bridge where "Bloody Sunday" happened. Then marchers began the third march on March 21st. In total, they marched 54 miles in five days.

Selma

R.E. Woodruff
Lake

Alabama River

Casey

Benton

Lowndesboro

Mt. Sinai

- 1. Color the circle near Selma yellow to mark where the marches began.
- 2. On March 7th, about 600 protestors were attacked by the police at Edmund Pettus Bridge. Draw a red X near Selma for the event later called "Bloody Sunday."
- 3. On March 9th, Martin Luther King, Jr. led the second march to the Edmund Pettus Bridge to commemorate "Bloody Sunday." Draw a bridge between Selma and Casey.
- 4. The third march began on March 21st. Write the number 3 next to Selma.
- 5. Three hundred marchers camped near Lowndesboro. Draw a campsite near Lowndesboro, and then color the circle green.
- 6. Draw a yellow star near Montgomery for the Stars for Freedom rally on March 24th, where popular musicians played for the marchers.
- 7. Connect all the towns with a black line to show the path of the march, then circle Montgomery with the same color to show where it ended.