

The March on Washington, 50 Years Later

[U.S. History/Econ/Government Lesson Plan]

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Based on this Lowdown post: [“Have the March on Washington’s Demands Been Met?”](#)

Content Objective

Students understand and explore the demands laid out at the March on Washington and determine if those demands were met during the Civil Rights Movement and how they measure up today.



Language Objective

Use evidence to support a thesis after using text and charts to respond to questions in a graphic organizer.

Relevance and Rationale

Students will determine if the demands made during the March on Washington have been realized.

Common Core Reading/Writing Standards

RH1. Students will cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

Activity (for 50 minute class period)

- 1) Warm Up – Ask students: “Tell me at least 3 things that you know about Dr. Martin Luther King?” Students will share answers. (5 min)
- 2) Students will read/pair-share March on Washington background: paragraph #1 & #2 and enter answer on GO (10 min)
- 3) Students will read/pair-share March on Washington demands: #3, #5, #8 and #10 and enter answer on GO (10 min)
- 4) Students will read/pair-share March on Washington evidence:
 - A. Lines starting “Today, 50 years hence...”
 - B. Lines starting “Even as a increasing number...”
 - C. Graph ‘high school education’
 - D. Graph ‘household income’ (15 min)
- 5) Students will individually answer the central question (10 min)

WHAT WE DEMAND*

1. Comprehensive and effective *civil rights* legislation from the present Congress—without compromise or filibuster—to guarantee all Americans
 - access to all public accommodations
 - decent housing
 - adequate and integrated education
 - the right to vote
2. Withholding of Federal funds from all programs in which discrimination exists.
3. *Desegregation of all school districts in 1963.*
4. Enforcement of the *Fourteenth Amendment*—reducing Congressional representation of states where citizens are disfranchised.
5. A new *Executive Order* banning discrimination in all housing supported by federal funds.
6. Authority for the Attorney General to institute *injunctive suits* when any constitutional right is violated.
7. A massive federal program to train and place all unemployed workers—Negro and white—on meaningful and dignified jobs at decent wages.
8. A national *minimum wage* act that will give all Americans a decent standard of living. (Government surveys show that anything less than \$2.00 an hour fails to do this.)
9. A broadened *Fair Labor Standards Act* to include all areas of employment which are presently excluded.
10. A federal *Fair Employment Practices Act* barring discrimination by federal, state, and municipal governments, and by employers, contractors, employment agencies, and trade unions.

*Support of the March does not necessarily indicate endorsement of every demand listed. Some organizations have not had an opportunity to take an official position on all of the demands advocated here.

