

The Sit-in-Movements:
Standing up to Racism by Sitting Down

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Junior Division

Group Website

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Our History Day project is the Greensboro Sit-In-Movement. We chose this topic because we wanted to do a project that could relate back to today and that had an impact on why we have the racial justice or injustice we have today. Our topic is important because the sit-in-movements are about people protesting and using their voice to change the inequalities they were facing. The sit-in movements throughout the 1960s communicated to the nation the need for racial equality. The Greensboro Sit-In-Movement, led by Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, created the first recognized sit-in-movement at Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. The courageous actions of these men were meant to protest the inequalities and racism that was ever-present in 1960s America, and by sitting down, they stood up against these institutional injustices. Through peaceful protests, the black community communicated the need to end segregation in the U.S and gave the voiceless the power to speak. While many of these injustices still exist, it was the actions of these brave protesters that shaped the Civil Rights Movement for years to come.

We started our History Day project in the library looking for books that might help us understand what the Greensboro Sit-in-Movement was. We interviewed Bruce Roberts, a photographer in the 1960s, who gave us a firsthand account of what the sit-ins were like and gave us a different perspective that online resources could not provide. We conducted our research by reading and researching lots of different articles. We found most of our information online and on websites. As we continued to research we realized how much of an impact this movement had and how these men who started the movement were only in college. It shows that age doesn't always need to be a factor in making history.

Our presentation category was actually pretty easy to pick this year. We needed to do something we could all work on no matter if we were together or not. We didn't want to act or do a performance so that category was out, and none of us were really interested in doing a documentary. That left exhibit and website, and since the word limit is higher on a website, and since we have to do school online, doing a website made the most sense. Not only did we learn how to successfully operate NHD webcentral, but we also learned how to compromise, how to work through setbacks and challenges, and how to listen to others.

Our topic, Sit-In-Movements, displays communication in multiple ways. The Sit-In-Movements showed people that they weren't second class citizens and were a stepping stone for the Civil Rights Movement. Protesters communicated by sitting peacefully, and they used written communication by making signs and marching the streets by Woolworth's lunch counter with them. There were so many different forms of communication that anyone could participate in them, there were no excuses. If you wanted change, you could stand up by sitting down!

Annotated Bibliography

Primary

Roberts, Bruce. Friday, Nov. 6th, 2020. Phone call

Bruce Roberts was a photographer throughout the 1960's. He took many pictures at sit-in movements and protests. This interview helped us gain a deeper perspective of what was going on, and why these people were looking for change. Bruce wants the younger generation to learn about our history before it's forgotten.

Secondary

Buchanan, Larry. "Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History." *New York Times*, 3 July 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>. Accessed 5 January 2021.

This site shows us how many people protested with the black lives matter movement. It gives graphs and information from many polls and sources. It gives us a good number about how many people still want to change this country.

"Greensboro Sit-In." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 4 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/topics/black-history/the-greensboro-sit-in.

This website gave us more information on the Greensboro sit-in-movement and about the people who participated in it. In the website it tells us how the sit-in movements brought the civil rights movement to the national scale and furthered the case of equal rights in the United States. The four people who started this movement and thousands of other people brought the movements to where people were recognizing them and either fought for their rights or went against it.

"Greensboro Sit-In | History, Summary, Impact, & Facts". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Greensboro-sit-in>. Accessed 9 Nov 2020.

The site shows us why Ezell Blair Jr. Franklin McClain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond chose to start the sit-in movements. Out of millions of people these four decided to be the first. People needed to see the sit-in movements so it had to be good and non-violent otherwise they wouldn't get their point across and that's what this site shows us.

Harris, Duchess. *Civil Rights Sit-Ins*. Core Library, an Imprint of Abdo Publishing, 2018.

This book helped us learn about all of the causes of the sit-in-movement. It helped us understand the injustices that were happening, such as violent unwarranted black deaths. This and other injustices are what made the Greensboro four decide to fight for justice and take a stand. It informed us about all of the history surrounding the sit-in-movements too.

History.com Editors. "Malcolm X." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/black-history/malcolm-x.

This website helped us look at the opposite side of sit-ins, violent protests. It informed us about Malcolm X, and how he was approaching protesting, vs. how the Greensboro Four were protesting equality.

History.com Editors. "Segregation in the United States." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 28 Nov. 2018, www.history.com/topics/black-history/segregation-united-states.

This website gave us more specific information on the segregation that was going on in the 1960's. It informed us on many different examples of segregation and helped us understand, more in depth, about why the Greensboro Sit-in-Movement happened.

Miller, Jake. *Sit-Ins and Freedom Rides: the Power of Nonviolent Resistance*. PowerKids Press, 2004.

This book helped give us information on the timeline of the Civil Rights Movement and where the Greensboro sit-in as well as the other sit-ins fall in that timeline. It helped us learn the step by steps of the sit-in-movement which gave us a better understanding of how this big movement fell into place.

Orr, Keith. "Sit-Ins." *YouTube*, YouTube, 2 May 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=f82cAuXM4IE&t=51s&has_verified=1. This video gave us a lot of information on how things could get violent really quickly and they would sit there and wait it out or take it on. These people changed generations to come and we are still fighting for equal rights but these people made the first step.

Penrice, Ronda Racha. *Sit-Ins and Their Impact on the Civil Rights Movement*. 2020. *Dummies*, <https://www.dummies.com/education/history/american-history/sit-ins-and-their-impact-on-the-civil-rights-movement/>. Accessed 16 November 2020. This website gave us information on why they chose the spot to have the first sit-in movement. Why not just choose their favorite counter? They chose the Woolworth Lunch Counter because it was a national chain and was known so people could easily replicate what the four people were doing in North Carolina.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sit-In, How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*. 1 ed., vol. 1, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; 1st edition, 2010. This book showed why the Greensboro Four wanted to stand there and who motivated them to do this in the first place. Martin Luther King Jr. played a huge role in motivating these four people to do this, with his words and quotes throughout the book motivating them to stay peaceful and not to go to violence. This book has quotes, pictures, and shows the events in order in the book.

Ray, Michael. "Greensboro Sit-In." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/Greensboro-sit-in.

This website helped us understand the Greensboro Sit-in-Movement in more depth. It informed us of the detailed process in which the Greensboro Four took to do the sit-in.

We were able to learn about everything, and it helped us understand the sit-in much more.

Roberts, Bruce. "Women's Sit-In Charlotte Woolworth." *Bruce Roberts Photography*, Bruce Roberts, <http://brucerobertsphotography.com/Page27.html>_ Accessed 26 October 2020. This site shows what happened at the movements from a live account. Bruce Roberts was also at the movement and got live pictures of one of the sit-ins. This site also gives some history and kinda why this is important.

"Sit-In Movement | History & Impact On The Civil Rights Movement". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/event/sit-in-movement>. Accessed 10 Nov 2020.

This website gave us background information about what a sit- in movement is by definition and why someone would want to do a sit- in movement. This will help out the website because now people will know what a sit- in movement is because when I heard about a sit - in movement I didn't know what that was because nobody ever talked about them.

"*Sit-In Movement of the 1960s.*" *Discovering U.S. History*, Gale, 2003. *Gale In Context: High School*,https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJ2104240421/SUIC?u=grrl_remote&sid=SUIC&xid=5a076ac3. Accessed 23 Oct. 2020.

This site helped us understand the sit-in movement more. It gave us information on the Greensboro sit-in-movement and informed us of most of the whole sit-in-movements, and the events that caused them. We learned about the background information as well as the first sit-in-movement.

"The Sit-In Movement." *Ushistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, www.ushistory.org/us/54d.asp?source=post_page.

This website helped us learn more about the SNCC, which is the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and also a short term impact. It helped us understand more about the SNCC, and better realize what it was.

"The Sit-In Movement [Ushistory.Org]". *Ushistory.Org*, 2020, <https://www.ushistory.org/us/54d.asp>. Accessed 4 Nov 2020 ([ushistory]).

This site gave us information on the first sit-in movement and how it happened. It showed how they became so popular in the south and how they were peaceful protests and they only wanted them to be peaceful.

SmithsonianAmHistory. "Reflections on the Greensboro Lunch Counter." *YouTube*, YouTube, 30 Jan. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFQ3ZCAgAA0&t=330s.

This video helped us because it showed how they were doing anything they could to make it non-violent and safe so that way their message would be heard. It gives a lot of information on why they did it too. They felt as if they were second class citizens so they needed to fix that.

Turck, Mary. *The Civil Rights Movement for Kids: a History with 21 Activities*. Chicago Review Press, 2000.

This book helped us get a more detailed description of the first sit-in-movement and helped us learn more about the Greensboro sit-in-movement in general. It also gave us great background information about the sit-in-movement and gave us information on the impact it made. It also gave us information on the whole civil rights movement so we could understand more about the civil right movement and how the sit-in-movement idea got thought up.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Freedom of the Menu*. 2005.

Freedom of the Menu book talks about how they started and how the little girl finally got to eat at the restaurant and have her banana split. It showed how the movements didn't get violent and how they even stayed in jail to show their cause and get news on it. Soon it spread all around the South and people were doing it until they got what they wanted.

Wilson, Christopher. "Lessons Worth Learning From the Moment Four Students Sat Down to Take a Stand." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution, 31 Jan. 2020, 9 a.m., www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/lessons-worth-learning-moment-greensboro-four-sat-down-lunch-counter-180974087/.

This website helped us look into the sit-in-movement with more detail. We were able to see the specifics rather than just the overview. This website allowed us to dig deeper, instead of just skimming the surface of the sit-in-movement.

Images for Illustration:

<https://blog.newspapers.com/greensboro-sit-in-protests/> This is a picture of a newspaper saying that the sit-in movements have spread throughout North Carolina.

<https://www.blendspace.com/lessons/GTrGT2IYbApGrw/copy-of-woolworth-s-sit-in> This is a picture of people protesting buying at Woolworths until they end segregation.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Greensboro-sit-in> This picture shows the four college freshmen sitting at the first movement waiting to be served.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-malcolm-x-lived-died-assassinated-death-reinvestigated-2020-2> This is a picture of Malcolm X at a riot.

<https://civilrightstrail.com/experience/student-led-sit-ins-across-the-south-lead-to-desegregated-businesses/> This is a picture of a large sit-in, with a large number of people participating in the peaceful protest.

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article239561018.html> This picture shows the Greensboro four sitting at the lunch counter.

<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-sit-in-movement> This is a picture of a large sit-in with a lot of protesters participating.

<https://www.crmvet.org/info/sitins.pdf> This is a photo of people protesting segregation and wanting freedom from it.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Roberts_\(photographer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Roberts_(photographer)) This is a picture of Bruce Robert, a photographer who captured the Sit-in-Movements.

<https://generocity.org/philly/2020/04/14/birthed-by-hbcu-students-sncc-offers-important-lessons-for-todays-student-activists/> This is a picture of the SNCC pin.

<https://groovyhistory.com/woolworth-sit-in-photos> This picture shows how people were protesting outside one of the Woolworths store.

<https://www.history.com/news/greensboro-four-sit-in-civil-rights> This is a picture of the Greensboro four sitting and waiting to be served by sitting and talking.

<http://www.joelrieves.com/the-greensboro-sit-ins/> This shows how a large number of people peacefully protested at a lunch counter.

<https://nhd-greensboro-sitins.weebly.com/effects--long-termshort-term.html> This is a picture of people protesting segregation on the street

<https://www.ncpedia.org/greensboro-four> This is a picture of the four Greensboro four walking through the streets.

<https://www.ncpedia.org/monument/greensboro-four-monument> This is a picture of a statue of the Greensboro four.

<https://politicsoutdoors.com/2020/01/31/sixtieth-anniversary-of-the-greensboro-sit-in/> This is a picture of the people who were participating in the sit-in-movement getting food and drinks poured on them.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/elections/articles/2020-05-29/joe-biden-calls-for-peaceful-protest-s-in-minnesota-trump-calls-demonstrators-thugs>. This is a picture of the Minneapolis protests and people protesting.

<https://www.wunc.org/post/chapel-hill-nine-get-marker-franklin-street> This is a picture of a newspaper article of 9 black teens having to go to jail for staging a sit-in movement.