

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM RIDERS

ISSUE 8, 9-12

BOTWC MINIS POSING AS
THE FREEDOM RIDERS



*Freedom
Riders*

RIDING FOR FREEDOM!

DIRECTIONS: READ THE PASSAGE BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

DURING THE 1950S, AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE, WORK, EAT, OR GO TO SCHOOL IN THE SAME PLACES AS WHITE AMERICANS. THIS WAS CALLED **SEGREGATION**. SEGREGATION REQUIRED DIFFERENT WATER FOUNTAINS, ENTRANCES, AND EXITS IN PUBLIC PLACES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS. THEY HAD TO SIT IN THE BACK OF BUSES AND GET UP IF A WHITE PERSON WANTED TO SIT DOWN. SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT THIS WAS HOW LIFE SHOULD BE, BUT OTHERS THOUGHT IT WAS UNFAIR AND WANTED TO FIGHT FOR **EQUALITY**. THIS FIGHT FOR EQUALITY WAS CALLED THE **CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**.

IN 1960, THE **SUPREME COURT** DECIDED THAT SEGREGATION WAS ILLEGAL. THEY STATED THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS WERE FREE TO SIT WHERE THEY PLEASED AND FREELY USE RESTAURANTS AND BATHROOMS IN TERMINALS SERVING **INTERSTATE BUSES**. THE SOUTHERN STATES WERE ANGRY ABOUT THIS DECISION AND IGNORED IT, CONTINUING TO UPHOLD SEGREGATION LAWS.



PHOTO CREDIT: PR NEWSWIRE

OVER 400 AMERICANS FROM MAY- NOVEMBER 1961 JOINED THEIR RIDES.

EVEN PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES WERE WATCHING THE FREEDOM RIDERS' STRUGGLE AND CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT TO HELP THEM. BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM RIDERS, PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY CREATED NEW STRICT LAWS TO MAKE SURE THAT SOUTHERN STATES FOLLOWED ORDERS FROM THE SUPREME COURT. SEGREGATION WOULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED IN THE SOUTH.

THE FREEDOM RIDERS WERE SO IMPORTANT IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. THEY INSPIRED THOSE WHO WANTED EQUALITY TO WORK TOGETHER AND USE THEIR VOICES TO CREATE CHANGE. THE FREEDOM RIDERS REMIND US THAT OUR VOICES HAVE POWER.

GROUPS OF MALE AND FEMALE AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WHITE AMERICANS OF DIFFERENT AGES DECIDED TO CHALLENGE SEGREGATION LAWS BY RIDING INTERSTATE BUSES FROM THE NORTH TO THE SEGREGATED SOUTH. THIS MADE **WHITE SUPREMACISTS** ANGRY AND MANY OF THEM ATTACKED THE FREEDOM RIDERS AND DESTROYED THEIR BUSES. THEIR ATTACKS ONLY MADE FREEDOM RIDERS MORE **PERSISTENT**. THEY CONTINUED TO TAKE INTERSTATE BUSES TO THE SOUTH, IN FACT,

READ & ANSWER!

1. WHO BECAME FREEDOM RIDERS?

- A. AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND MEN ONLY
- B. YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN ONLY
- C. AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WHITES
- D. YOUNG AND OLD, MALE AND FEMALE AFRICAN AMERICANS AND WHITES



2. WHAT DID THE FREEDOM RIDERS DO?

3. IN PARAGRAPH 3, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE WORD PERSISTENT MEANS? PROVIDE ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE.

4. HOW DID THE FREEDOM RIDERS BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY?
PLEASE BE SURE TO STATE 2 PIECES OF EVIDENCE.

STOP & REFLECT:



THE FOLLOWING QUOTE IS VERY POWERFUL AND WAS SAID BY FORMER FREEDOM RIDER, JOHN LEWIS. STOP AND JOT A QUICK REFLECTION ON THIS QUOTE.

“IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?”

REP. JOHN LEWIS - FORMER FREEDOM RIDER

WHAT DOES THIS QUOTE MEAN TO YOU?

HOW DOES THIS QUOTE SIGNIFY THE FREEDOM RIDERS EXPERIENCE?

GLOSSARY

SEGREGATION: THE SEPARATION OF A SPECIFIC RACIAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER GROUPS FROM THE GENERAL SOCIETY.

EQUALITY: BEING EQUAL IN STATUS, RIGHTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: A SERIES OF ACTIONS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS.

SUPREME COURT: THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. EVERY STATE MUST FOLLOW WHAT THIS COURT SAYS.

INTERSTATE BUSES: BUSES THAT CROSS FROM ONE U.S. STATE TO ANOTHER.

WHITE SUPREMACIST: A PERSON WHO BELIEVES THAT WHITE PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHER PEOPLE.

DID YOU KNOW:

- THE FIRST GROUPS OF FREEDOM RIDERS TRAVELED FROM WASHINGTON D.C. TO ALABAMA.
- BEFORE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE JOINED THE FREEDOM RIDERS, THERE WERE ONLY 13 FREEDOM RIDERS - 7 WHITE PEOPLE AND 6 AFRICAN AMERICANS.
- ONE OF THOSE 13 ORIGINAL FREEDOM RIDERS IS CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS. PRESIDENT OBAMA HONORED HIM WITH A PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, A REALLY IMPORTANT AWARD.

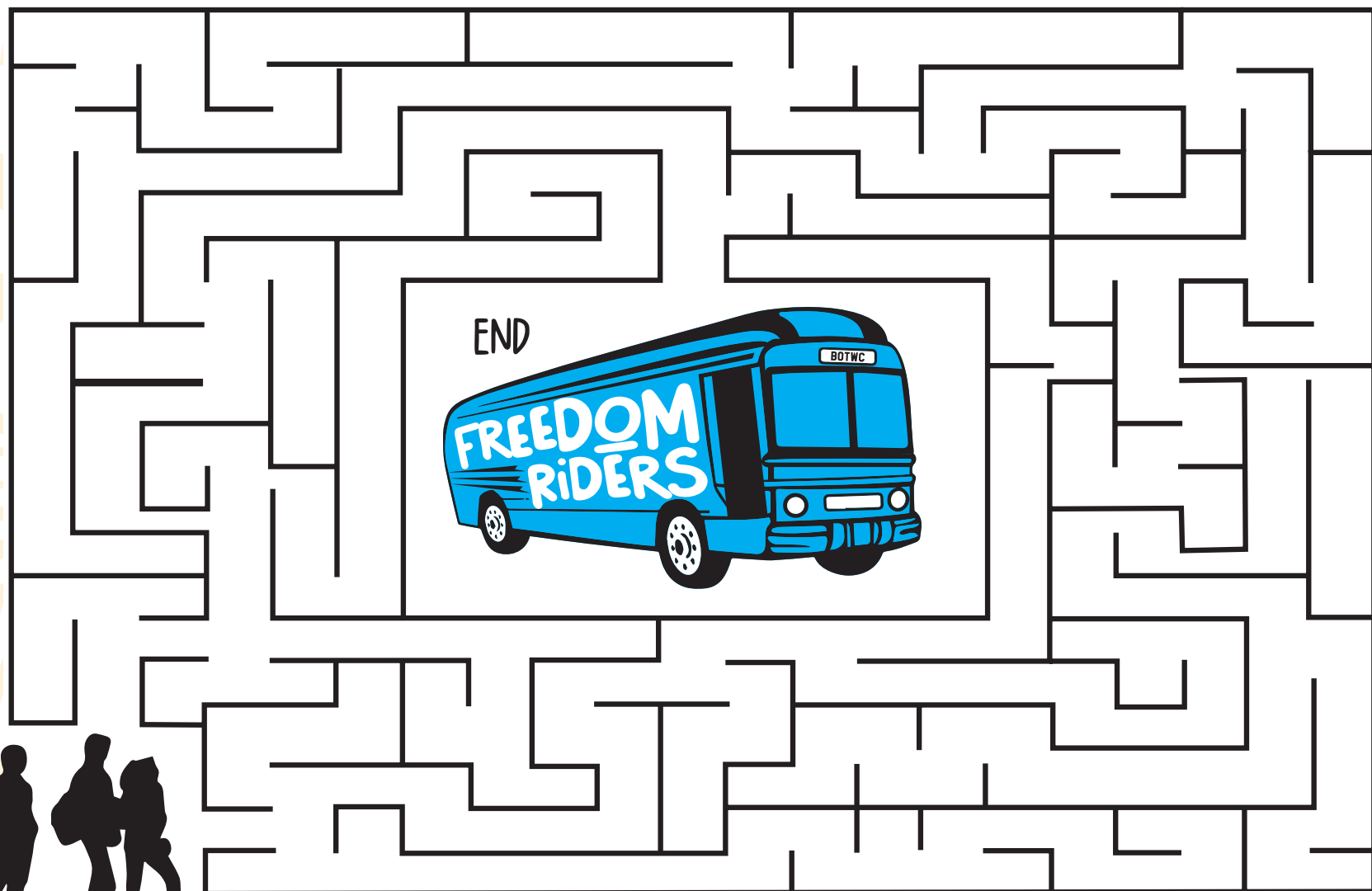


PHOTO CREDIT: THE WHITE HOUSE

**IF NOT US,
THEN WHO?
IF NOT NOW,
THEN WHEN?**

-JOHN LEWIS

BUS MAZE!



START

HELP THE FREEDOM RIDERS GET BACK TO THEIR BUS!

MATH ACTIVITY

13

DON'T FORGET
TO CREATE A
PLACE VALUE
CHART!

1. DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, THE FREEDOM RIDERS TRAVELED A TOTAL OF 66,430 MILES. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF 6 IN THE NUMBER OF MILES?

- A. 6
- B. 60
- C. 600
- D. 6,000

2. ROUND THE FOLLOWING MILES TO THE UNDERLINED PLACE VALUE.

- A. MAY: 9,450 _____
- B. JUNE: 10,230 _____
- C. JULY: 14,765 _____
- D. AUGUST: 36,893 _____
- E. SEPTEMBER: 66,430 _____

BONUS: NOVEMBER: 89,959 _____

WHEN ROUNDING,
USE THE
FOLLOWING
SAYING TO HELP
YOU "4 OR BELOW
LET IT GO, 5 OR
ABOVE GIVE IT A
SHOVE"



#BOTWCCHALLENGE

YOU GOT A MAP OF THE U.S. AND A STAMP WITH YOUR BOX - USE THE STAMPS TO MARK THE PLACES YOU'VE VISITED THEN TALK WITH AN ADULT ABOUT HOW YOU GOT THERE (BUS, CAR, PLANE ETC).

ANSWERS: (1) D (2) A. 9,500, B. 10,200, C. 10,000, D. 36,900, E. 70,000, BONUS: 90,000

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.