

BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN

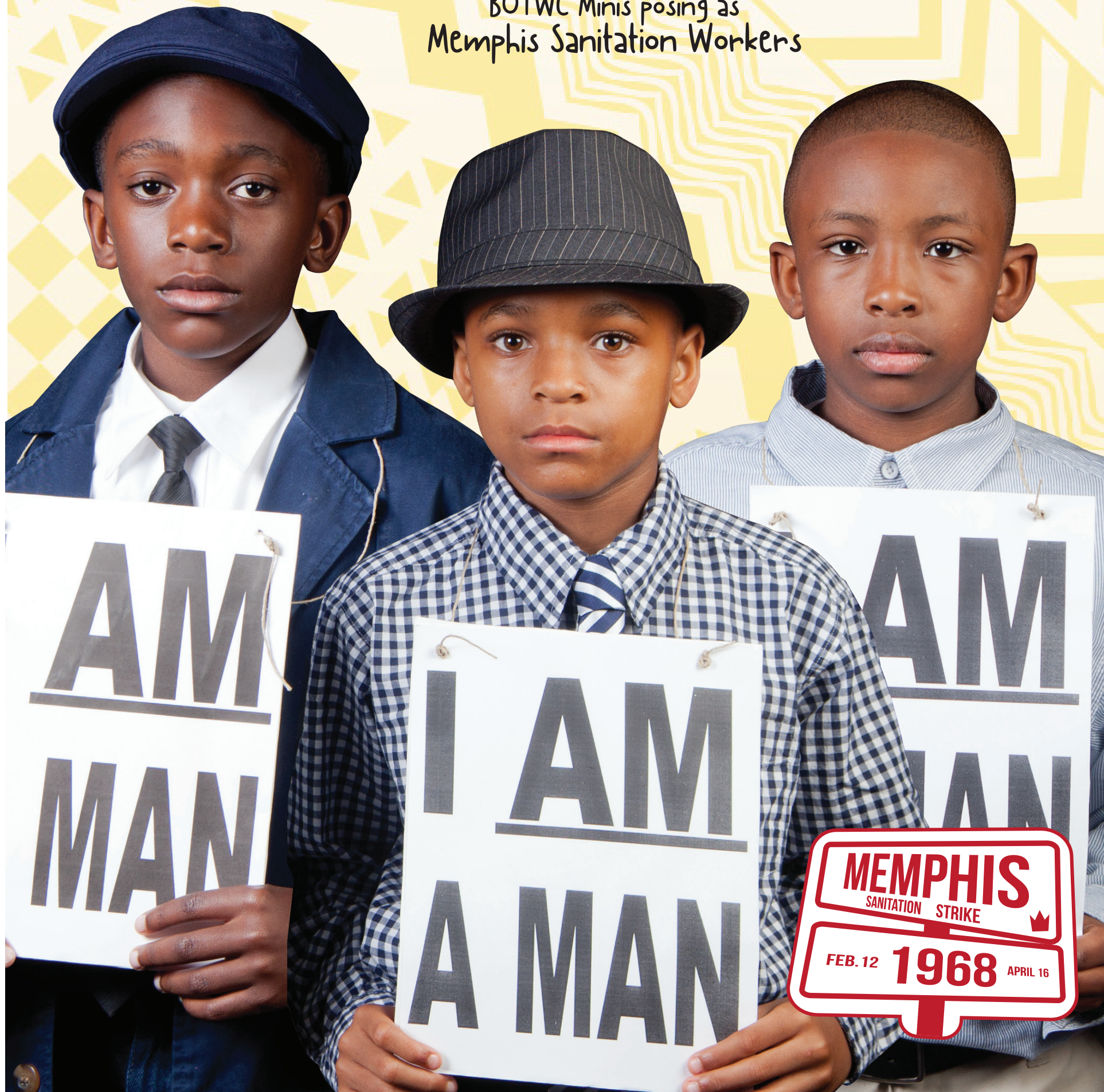
BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF MEMPHIS SANITATION WORKERS

AGES 5-8

BOTWC Minis posing as
Memphis Sanitation Workers



THE STRIKE, THE LAST STRAW

Directions: Read the information below to learn about the Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike.



City Hall plaza April 8, 1968 after MLK Jr.'s was assassinated.



Memphis, like other cities in the South, had a long history of mistreating Black people. One of those events was a key moment that led up to the Memphis Sanitation Workers' **strike**.



Echol Cole and Robert Walker were two Black male **sanitation workers**. The work was hard and often unsafe. They couldn't even find shelter during bad weather - they had to get in the back of garbage trucks. During a storm, Echol Cole and Robert Walker climbed in the back of a garbage truck and something caused it to come on, killing them. Their deaths inspired their fellow workers to go on strike.

Martin Luther King Jr supported the cause. He came to Memphis to support the strike and protest against the terrible working conditions. On April 3rd he came to Memphis to speak and had his last public speech. He was **assassinated** the next day.

Protesting was a way to try and get fair treatment. The strike of the Memphis Sanitation Workers' started on February 12th, 1968. 11 days after the deaths of Cole and Walker. The workers were also tired of bad equipment, very low pay, and poor working conditions. The strike lasted until April 16th when the city agreed to raise the **wages**.

History was made during the Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike because this was the first successful strike. In 1966 the workers tried to strike but they did not have enough support from the community.

Issues on the job: There were many problems with working as a sanitation worker. They were paid very little and had long and tiring hours. They could also be fired at any time. For years, sanitation workers complained but nothing was done. The strike was their way to get what they needed to survive.

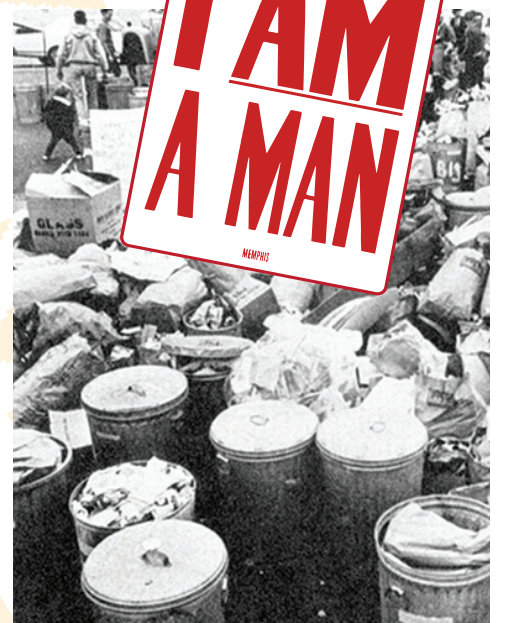
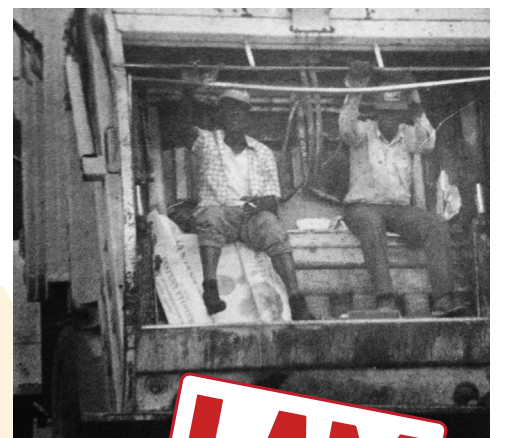
Sanitation workers work in public health and help keep things clean and safe. Most sanitation workers at this time were Black men and they had jobs like getting the trash, taking it to the right place, and keeping our neighborhoods clean.



READ & RESPOND

Directions: You have just read and learned about the Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike. In the chart below, fill in the important details to answer what it was, why it happened, and how it started and ended.

WHAT	
WHEN	
WHERE	
HOW	
WHY	



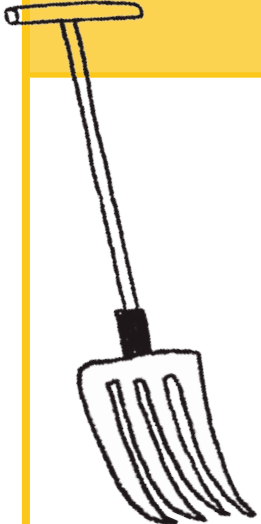

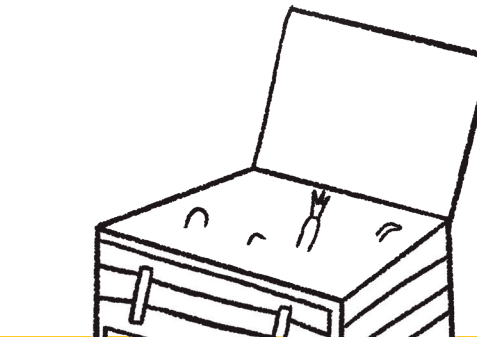
COMPOST FOR A CLEANER WORLD

Cleaning is a very important job and helps to make sure we are all safe! We help in different ways such as recycling and composting. Using your compost guide, look over the chart below to make a list of items you can recycle or compost and a list of items you cannot.

FOOD
PLASTIC BAG
PAPER

EGG CARTONS
CARDBOARD BOX

BROKEN GLASS
TIN CANS

 CAN RECYCLE	CANNOT RECYCLE 
	

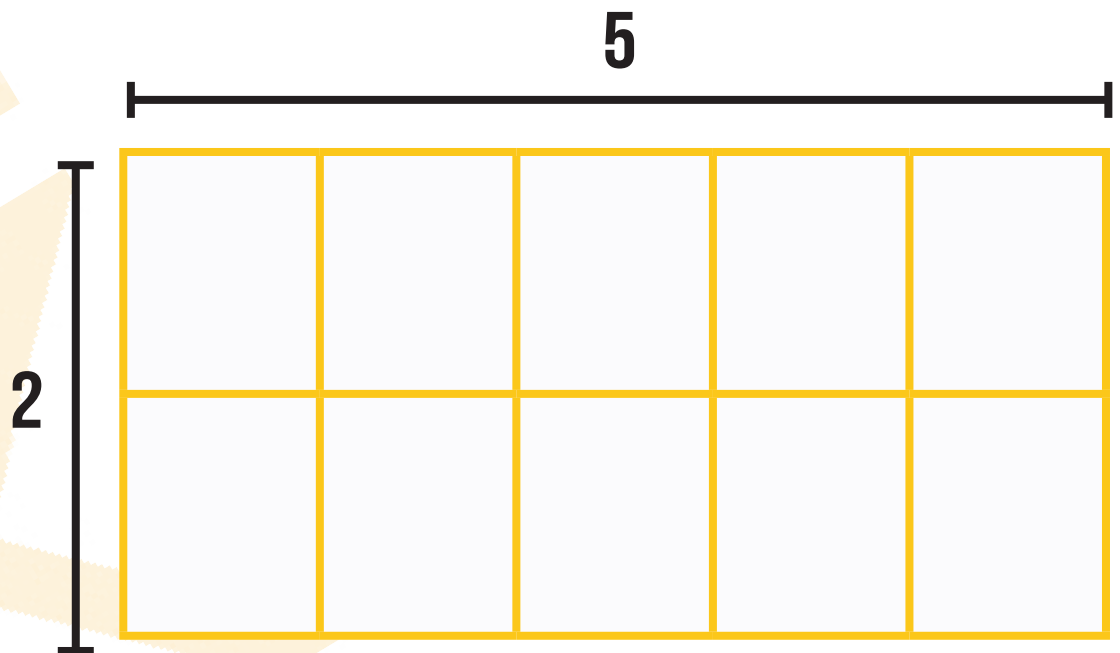
YOU CAN EVEN TRY TO RECYCLE WITH YOUR FAMILY THIS WEEK AND TEACH THEM HOW TO SEPARATE THE ITEMS!

FINDING THE LENGTH & WIDTH

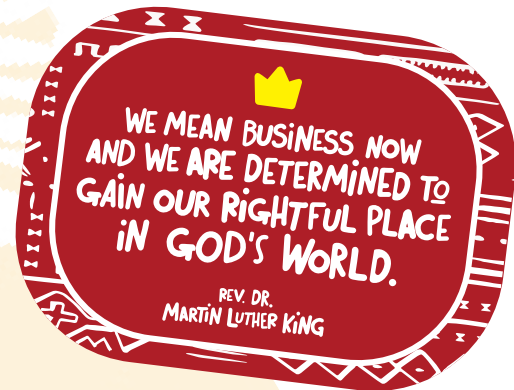
Today we're going to find the length and width of some shapes! The area is the measurement of the space inside the shape.

Count each square across to find the **width** (5).

Count each square down to find the **length** (2).



Let's find the length and width of some other shapes on the next page!



GLOSSARY

Sanitation Worker - a person who works to keep places clean and free from dirt, infection, disease, etc., by removing garbage and recycling

Strike - to stop work in order to force an employer to agree to demands: to refuse to work until your employer does what you want

Protest - an event at which people gather together to show strong disapproval about something

Assassinate - to kill (someone, such as a famous or important person) usually for political reasons

Wages - money paid to workers for their labor

COMPOSTING NUMBERS

Directions: Find the length of each box by measuring the squares down and the width of each box by measuring the squares across.

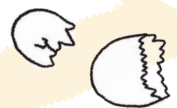
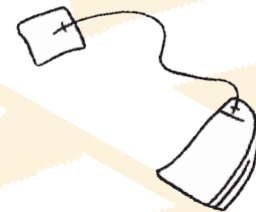
1)

2)

--	--	--	--

3)

4)



ANSWER KEY: (1) L: 2 W: 3 (2) L: 1 W: 4 (3) L: 3 W: 4 (4) L: 2 W: 4

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.