Laura McShane

We Shall Overcome 45 min

Objective:
Help students understand the concept of civil rights

Big Idea:
Music can change the world

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 20 min

Share - We Shall Overcome The Story of A Song by Debbie levy with illustrations by Vanessa Brantley-Newt

http://wg.wondersopolis.org/lessons/we-shall-overcome
We Shall Overcome

For older students:

Review: [https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-a-civil-right](https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-a-civil-right)

Resources:

[https://stuartstotts.com/we-shall-overcome/](https://stuartstotts.com/we-shall-overcome/)

Also recommended:

- This Promise of Change - also by Debby Levy and Jo Ann Allen Boyce
- Child of the Dream by Sharon Robinson
- Clap Your Hands by Toyomi Igus - illustrated by Michele Woods
- The Roots of Rap by Carole Boston Weatherford - illustrated by Frank Morrison
2. Investigation and New Learning 15 min

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame features songs that have inspired activism [https://edu.rockhall.com/](https://edu.rockhall.com/) Teachers have free access to music and lesson plans.

Compare with the lyrics of We Shall Overcome. Musical and lyrical adaptation by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan and Pete Seeger - inspired by African American traditional call and response.

Do you take a stand on current issues?
READ Are Kid Crusaders Fair Game for Critics?

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press
JANUARY 12, 2020 — 10:35AM

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

What music affects your mood? Does it inspire change?

Review:
https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-does-it-mean-to-stand-for-something

- CAUSE
- DEMONSTRATION
- RACIAL
- SEGREGATION
- BOYCOTT
- SYMBOL
- MOVEMENT
- WHOLEHEARTED
- APPLAUDING
- OVATION
- CHARITABLE
- ICON
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• PUBLIC
• PASSIVE
• PROMOTE
• SUPPORT
• RESEARCH
• IMPORTANCE