

# Civil Rights Movement

## BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S CRUSADE



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Birmingham, Alabama, during the first week of May 1963, thousands of school children participated in non-violent demonstrations for the Children's Crusade. Despite initial concerns from parents and city leaders, the actions of these young protesters played a major role in bringing about lasting changes during a critical moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

**CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE**  
Including those from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), developed a plan in early 1963 to combat segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. The city was notorious for its discriminatory practices, particularly in employment and public life. The plan called for African Americans to sit in specific places and picket "colored days."

**GOAL AND LEADERS**  
The goal was to use non-violent protests to bring attention to Birmingham's segregation. Birmingham civic and business leaders were desegregated. In April 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Reverend Ralph Abernathy, and local leaders Fred Shuttlesworth led thousands of African American protesters through Birmingham, resulting in numerous arrests, including that of

**INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN**  
To involve more people in the "Children's Crusade" movement, SCLC leaders planned a protest. Parents, fearing job loss, hesitated to protest. Children's participation, so their took a stand against segregation. Children aged 7 to 18 met at 6th Street Baptist Church Forum on May 2nd, known as D-Day, they left the church to peacefully protest segregation, walking out of classes to join the cause.



### MARCH AND POLICE

...d to City Hall, but police used force to break up the march. The march ended with 39 arrests, 19 of which were children.



**NATIONAL OUTCRY**  
The Birmingham march drew national attention, covering international Birmingham businesses left the city. The first protesters gathered at the May 10th, continuing non-violent protests. Civil rights leaders met with city business and release those who were arrested. Although the protests involved students, they brought international attention to the Civil Rights Movement. In September 1963, a tragic bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham resulted in the deaths of four children and the injury of many others.

### BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

Comprehension Questions

1. **CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.**  
The Children's Crusade take place during \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Massachusetts  
b. Birmingham, Alabama  
c. Washington, D.C.  
d. Saudi Arabia

2. **What is the initial goal of the campaign led by the Birmingham Children's Crusade?**  
a. To bring attention to Birmingham's segregation  
b. To bring attention to Birmingham's employment opportunities  
c. To bring attention to Birmingham's public life events  
d. To bring attention to Birmingham's desegregation through non-violent protests

3. **Who are the leaders of the non-violent protest in Birmingham?**  
a. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth  
b. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth  
c. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth  
d. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth

4. **What prompted the involvement of children in the Birmingham Children's Crusade?**  
a. Parents were eager to skip school  
b. Children were eager to skip school  
c. Parents were afraid to skip school  
d. Children were afraid to skip school

**NO-PREP & EDITABLE**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

## Comprehension Questions

### DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. Where did the Children's Crusade take place during the Civil Rights Movement?

- a. Boston, Massachusetts
- b. Birmingham, Alabama
- c. Washington, D.C.
- d. Mecca, Saudi Arabia

2. What was the initial goal of the campaign led by civil rights leaders in Birmingham?

- a. Increase employment opportunities
- b. Promote public life events
- c. Provoke desegregation through non-violent protests
- d. Establish a separate nation for African Americans

3. Who were the leaders of the Birmingham non-violent protests in 1963?

- a. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth
- b. Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Fred Shuttlesworth
- c. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth
- d. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth

4. Discuss the resistance faced by the children during their peaceful march in Birmingham and the subsequent measures taken by Commissioner Bull Connor. How did the violence impact the protesters, and what were the goals of the campaign at this point?

5. Describe the international impact of the footage and photographs of the Birmingham protests. How did the global community react, and how did the reaction contribute to the eventual resolution of the Children's Crusade?

## Answers Key

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the Children's Crusade take place during the Civil Rights Movement?

Answer: b. Birmingham, Alabama

2. What was the initial goal of the campaign led by civil rights leaders in Birmingham?

Answer: c. Provoke desegregation through non-violent protests

3. Who were the leaders of the Birmingham non-violent protests in 1963, including the Children's Crusade?

Answer: b. Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth

4. What prompted the involvement of children in the Children's Crusade?

Answer: c. Parents feared job loss for protesting, so children stood in

5. On what day did the children leave the 16th Street Baptist Church for their non-violent protest in Birmingham?

Answer: a. May 2nd

6. What was the original destination of the children's peaceful march in Birmingham?

Answer: b. City Hall

6. What was the original destination of the children's peaceful march in Birmingham?

Answer: b. City Jail

16th Street Baptist Church

What measures, including water hoses, batons, and fire hoses, were used against the children during the protests?

Answer: b. Bull Connor, Birmingham

What impact did the footage and photographs of the protests have?

Answer: c. International support for segregation, international outrage and pressure on Birmingham

What was the significance of the global celebrations for civil rights during the Children's Crusade?

Answer: d. An agreement reached to end the protests and businesses in Birmingham

September 1963

What event occurred in Birmingham in September 1963 in the nation?

Answer: b. The assassination of Malcolm X at the 16th Street Baptist Church

What was the significance of the Birmingham Children's Crusade?

### EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did the discriminatory practices in Birmingham, Alabama, that led to the Birmingham Children's Crusade, impact the lives of African Americans in the South?

2. How did the role of children in the Children's Crusade, and how did the children's involvement in the non-violent demonstrations in Birmingham, impact the Civil Rights Movement?

children stood in

16th Street Baptist Church

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

**READY TO PRINT**

**NO-PREP !**

**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



**EASY EDITING**

**EDITABLE**

**\*FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

