

# CIVIL RIGHTS PHOTO ANALYSIS CENTERS ACTIVITY



**5 CIVIL RIGHTS ERA PHOTOS,  
STUDENT PHOTO ANALYSIS  
GUIDE, TEACHERS GUIDE AND  
KEY FOR CENTERS ACTIVITY!**

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# PHOTO ANALYSIS

Photos are great sources to use when analyzing historical events and significance. Use the "Photo Analysis Chart" to analyze the photo below. Your goal is to analyze and interpret the photo to determine its importance and historical relevance.

# # 1





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## #2



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## #3





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## #4



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## #5



Social Studies

Photo #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?		
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?		
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?		
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?		
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?		

**Overall Summary:**

# TEACHER GUIDE

This is a versatile tool that can be used in a variety of situations when teaching students about the Civil Rights Movement. Firstly, I typically use this resource as an introductory activity to a Civil Rights unit of study. I do not tell students that we will be learning about the Civil Rights and instead present them with the photo analysis found in this resource so students can practice their ability to analyze a source without first being given context clues. That is why none of the included photos include captions or title. Instead, the students are encouraged to use the content of the image (facilitated by the included analysis chart) to interpret the photos in order to create their own meaning. Alternatively, the differing photo's in this resource can be used at different times during the unit of study when then image corresponds to the topic being taught. For example, photo #1 could be used while learning about the sit-ins.

There are also several different ways this resource can be utilized. First, the class could be divided into five groups and each group could be responsible for analyzing and interpreting a different photo. They could then be tasked with presenting their findings back to the rest of the class. Secondly, the different photos could be distributed throughout the class at different "stations" and students could be required to visit each station in order to analyze each of the five photos. A class discussion could be used as a concluding activity. Third, each student could be required to analyze each photo (or a selection of photos) individually. Based on teacher discretion, the teacher could add photos or remove photos from the resource in order to better meet the needs of the students in the classroom.

The included photos are a general cross-section of the Civil Rights Movement and by the end of the use of the resource, the students should have improved skills at photo analysis and have a general understanding of the major themes of the Civil Rights Movement upon which the teacher can begin exploring specific topics in more detail.

The included photo analysis chart should be completed by students recording their observations (what they see in the images) to the 5 W's on each chart and then offering an interpretation of the each of the questions. Finally, students should conclude by offering an overall interpretation of what the photo represents.

General teacher keys are included for each photo, and a PowerPoint has been included that contains each image so that the teacher may use to facilitate a class discussion if needed. The class discussions should center on students offering their observations and interpretations of the included photos with the teacher simply facilitating or guiding the discussion.

The teacher should fill in the gaps of the student's interpretation afterwards to assist in analysis and help students see how effective they were with their interpretations. The included teacher keys are a general guide for interpretation of the images.



Teacher Key

Photo #: 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?	There are people sitting at a counter (two of which are the only African Americans in the image) and other people standing (all white) people the people at the counter.	The people at the counter are likely doing something that the others (behind them) don't want them to do. Since the only two African Americans are being abused the image may be showing racial issues.
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?	The people at the counter are sitting still and are being abused or heckled by the people behind them. The people behind are pouring things on the others sitting at the counter.	Either the people at the counter are scared and don't want to leave or they are standing up for something. Otherwise they would leave. The others are angry and trying to shame the ones sitting at the counter.
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?	The image appears to take place in a restaurant or a diner as evidenced by the counter the people are sitting at. The counter contains salt and pepper suggesting it's a restaurant.	Likely taking place in the USA or a similar Western Democracy based on the presence of African Americans and white people. Maybe in a restaurant in the American South.
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?	The image appears to be older based on the clothing, hair styles and other features of the people present. As well, the image is black and white suggesting it was created before color imagery.	Based on the evidence of the hair styles and clothing and the use of black and white imagery the image was likely taken in the 1940's to 1960's.
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?	The people at the counter appear sad or frightened while the others in the back seem happy based on the fact that some are smiling.	The people abusing the others at the counter are trying to shame or embarrass them.

## Overall Summary:

The image seems to be from the 1940's-1960's in the American South and displays issues related to race or equality. The people at the counter are being shamed for doing something they shouldn't be doing or aren't supposed to do.

Teacher Key

Photo #: 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?	There are soldiers and African American men with signs on their chests.	The African American men are likely members of an organization that supports rights of some kind and the soldiers are present to stop or prevent violence.
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?	The African American men are walking in a single file line with signs on their chests. The army soldiers are aiming their guns in the direction of the African American men and holding a line.	The African American men appear to be protesting for equal rights based on the nature of the signs. The soldiers appear to be directing the direction of the African American men.
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?	On a street corner where tanks or other military related vehicles appear to be driving by.	Based on the presence of African American men and the English signs, the street is likely in the USA.
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?	The guns, helmets and military vehicles are not modern. The clothing appears to be from an older style and the image is black and white.	Based on the older style weapons and gear the action likely took place in the 1940's to 1960's.
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?	The African American men have signs that read "I am a Man" and are walking in a line. The soldiers seem to be directing the African American men.	The African American men are protesting or standing up for equal rights of some kind. The presence of the soldiers suggests that the government expects some kind of violence or riots.

## Overall Summary:

The image is depicting a protest of African Americans in the name of equality rights. The men are protesting on a street in the USA in the 1940's to 1960's and the soldiers are present to prevent conflict or violence from occurring.

Teacher Key

Photo #: 3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?	An African American girl surrounded by white people (girls) and soldiers in the background. The soldier seem to be dressed in American style clothing.	The African American girl looks like a teenager and the other girls are carrying school books suggest they are school age.
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?	The African American girl is walking calmly forward, while the white people behind are staring or yelling at her. The African American girl is surrounded by many people. The soldiers are watching on in concern.	The white people are angry at the African American girl while the soldiers seem to be monitoring for violence or physical altercations. The African American girl is trying to avoid conflict.
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?	On a sidewalk or a street. The girls are dressed in a fashion popular in Western democracies. There is an African American girl.	In the USA, in the American South.
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?	The girls are wearing older style dresses, and the soldiers are dressed in older style gear and uniforms. The image is black and white.	Based on the older style weapons and gear the action likely took place in the 1940's to 1960's.
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?	The African American girl is being verbally attacked or followed by a large group of white people.	The African American girl is doing something against the wishes of the white people and soldiers are there to prevent violence.

## Overall Summary:

The image is from the 1940's to 1960's in the American south and shows a school age girl likely going to school while being harassed by white people who likely don't want her to go to school. The soldiers are there to prevent violence or riots.



Teacher Key

Photo #: 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?	Young and old white people. There are American flags and English signs related to "race mixing".	White Americans who are upset with race mixing (desegregation).
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?	They are standing on the steps of an official building. They are hold American flags and signs. There is a microphone.	They are protesting race mixing and holding a rally to get their views across. They are using the steps of what appears to be a government building to express their views likely to influence the government.
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?	On the steps of a building. There is an American flag.	On the steps of an American government building.
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?	The people are dressed in older style clothes and the microphone is an older style as well. The signs equate race mixing with communism. The image is black and white.	In the 1940's-1960's during a time when communism was a threat in the USA.
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?	The people are protesting or announcing their views on race mixing.	The white people are upset with desegregation and want to have their views considered in government decision making.

## Overall Summary:

The image shows a group of white Americans during the 1940's to 1960's who are upset about a government policy or change related to race mixing.

Teacher Key

Photo #: 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PHOTO ANALYSIS CHART

**Directions:** Use the chart below to record your observations from the photo and then record your interpretations of each question. Finally, in the final space record your overall impression or interpretation of the photo in relation to the historical significance/relevance of the photo.

	OBSERVATIONS	INTERPRETATIONS
<b>WHO</b> is in the image?	There are many African Americans walking in a line.	The African Americans are people who are protesting or showing support.
<b>WHAT</b> are the people doing in the image?	Walking in a line together and hold hands or linking arms. They are carrying flags.	They are showing their unity on a given issue (likely related to race considering they are all African American). They are protesting.
<b>WHERE</b> does the image take place?	On a street. There are American flags present.	They are on an American street showing their support or unity on a given issue and protesting to get a message out.
<b>WHEN</b> did the action take place?	The clothing and styling of the people is older and the image is black and white.	In the 1940's-1960's.
<b>WHY</b> is the action happening?	The people are walking forward together and joined together by holding hands or linking arms.	They are trying to convince people of something through their protest or "march".

## Overall Summary:

A rally or protest of African Americans on an issue likely related to race in the USA in the 1940's to 1960's.