

Activity 4: Compare and Contrast

Consider similarities and differences between images of the civil rights movement



Trikosko, M.S. (1963) Demonstrators holding signs during the March on Washington. Available at: [Demonstrators holding signs during the March on Washington, 1963] / MST. | Library of Congress (loc.gov) (Accessed: 8 March 2023). Freely available in the public domain.

This activity is a short and simple one, but gets students thinking even more about groups of images and the complexity of the various occurrences within the Civil Rights Movement. Provide a variety of images from the Civil Rights Movement, and ask the students, in pairs or in groups of 3 or 4, to select two. The students should then discuss the similarities and differences in the images.

This will encourage the students to think about the Civil Rights movement as more than its buzzwords, for example the word “protest.” In the image pack, there is an image of sanitation workers taking part in a protest for their rights, using placards. There are also images of white supremacists protesting against integration, using placards. These images are very similar in a way – there are people protesting using placards – but also very different, in that one group is Black people protesting for basic human rights, and the other is white people acting in a racist manner. This kind of image comparison allows students to consider the nuances within the various themes of the Civil Rights Movement.

You may wish to use the Y-notes graphic organiser to help with this activity.