



Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument

# Lesson Plan

## Through the Eyes of Medgar Evers

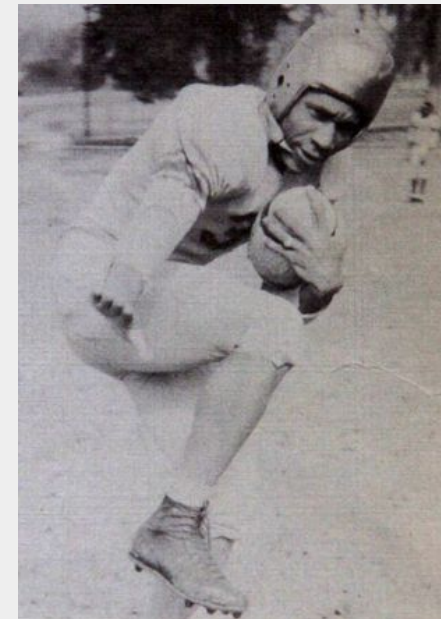
Catalysts of the Civil Rights Movement



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## Early Life

- One of four children
- Very close to his brother Charles
- Parents emphasized education, religion, and hard work
- Witnessed violence that Black people in Mississippi experienced



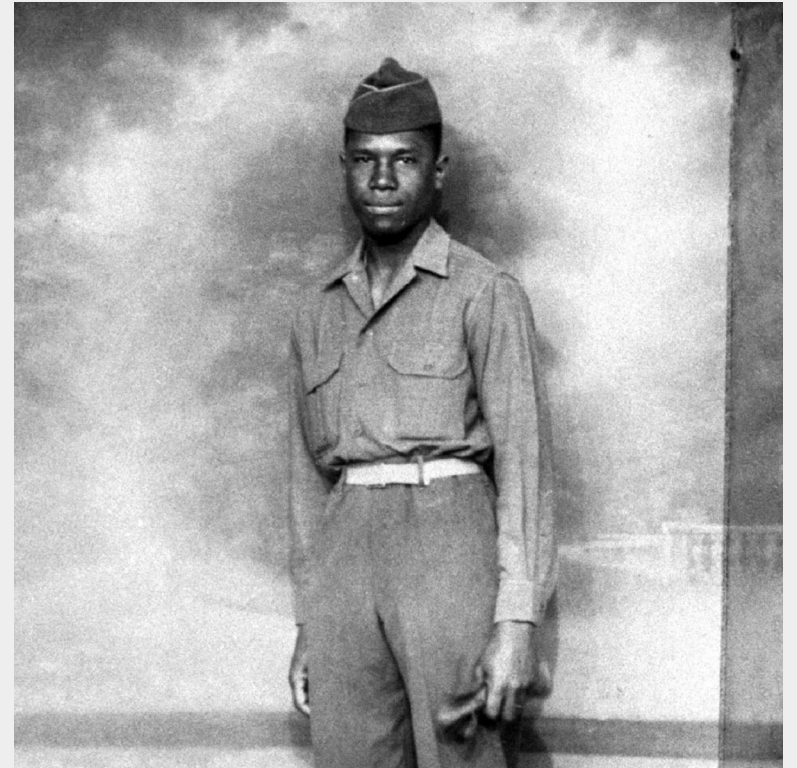
*Image courtesy of the Alcorn State University*



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## Armed Forces

- Evers joined the Army in 1942
- Joined to follow Charles and see the world
- Was relegated to a segregated support unit
- Black soldiers were seen as “inferior”



*Image courtesy of the National Museum of African American History and Culture*



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## Impact of the War

- Evers was frustrated by Black soldiers' treatment
- Realized he was fighting for Europeans citizens' rights
- Rights that Black people did not have back home



*Image courtesy of Medgar Evers College*



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## Life After the War

- Returning home, Medgar finished high school
- Went to Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College
- Met his wife, Myrlie, while at Alcorn
- Eventually has three children with Myrlie
  - Darrell Kenyatta, Reena Denise, and James Van



*Image courtesy of Mississippi Department of Archives and History*



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## Activism Begins

- Led a group of Black veterans attempt to register to vote
- Ultimately failed, but started Medgar's life of activism
- Also attempted to desegregate the University of Mississippi
- Became Mississippi's first NAACP Field Secretary



*Image courtesy of the University of Maryland*



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## Successes

- Heavily impacted by Emmett Till's murder
- Helped identify and support Black witnesses to the Till murder
- Also instrumental in helping James Meredith desegregate the University of Mississippi



*Image courtesy of Mississippi History Now*



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## Danger and Assassination

- Faced increased violence due to his public activism
- June 12, 1963- Medgar is assassinated by Byron de la Beckwith
- His work inspired further activism in Mississippi



*Image courtesy of the Library of Congress*



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“You can kill a man,  
but you can’t kill an idea.”

-Medgar Evers