

## **Let The Children March**- 4th grade lesson plan

For a Youtube version of the story click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnptqGnM4xQ>

This is a great story to empower children and let them know they can play a role in making the world a better place. Children of all ages gathering to march brought about one of the largest victories of the Civil Rights Movement.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Dr King was organizing people to bring about desegregation. What is desegregation? What are some examples from the story of how the races were separated?

Why were the adults in the story not able to march? What repercussions would they face? How did they support the desegregation movement?

“Resistance is the refusal to accept the way things are because things can be different.”  
What were the changes the children in Birmingham were “Resistance” marching for?

“On May 2, 1963, in Birmingham, Ala. about 1,000 students went to jail. By May 10th, 3,000 were in jail. The police thought the children would be frightened to be arrested. Instead, they were happy and singing.” Why do you think the kids were full of joy to be arrested?

### **Activity:**

Listen to “We Shall Overcome” [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhnPVP23rzo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhnPVP23rzo)

This is one of the songs that the children sang when they were in jail. This is a simple song that could easily be learned as a class. At 2:32 in the video, they talk about the verse that “They wrote in Alabama. We are not afraid” Why do you think this song brought the kids strength and comfort? What would you write for your resistance song?

Have your students take the Birmingham Pledge <https://www.learningforjustice.org/sites/default/files/general/Birmingham%20Pledge%20Form%202016.pdf>

Listen to this recording of the song We Shall Overcome from 1964 (scroll down to find *We Shall Overcome* then click the red play button).

<https://www.npr.org/2010/02/11/123599617/a-freedom-singer-shares-the-music-of-the-movement#playlist>

### **Essay prompt:**

People stand up to racial injustices in different ways. What are some ideas you have of how you can stand up to the problems around you?

### **Art Project:**

Have each student make their own “Resistance” protest sign of something they want to change in the world.

Lesson put together by Maren Patterson member of Horizon PTA

Quotes taken from

[https://www.learningforjustice.org/sites/default/files/kits/Childrens\\_March\\_Teachers\\_Guide\\_web\\_0.pdf](https://www.learningforjustice.org/sites/default/files/kits/Childrens_March_Teachers_Guide_web_0.pdf)