



# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

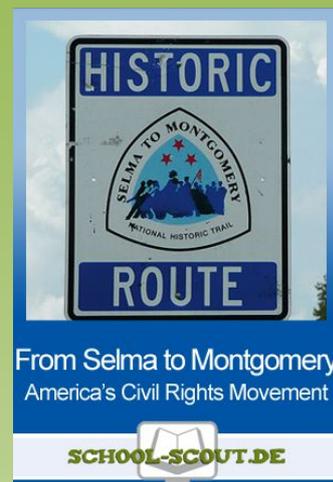
Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

## Auszug aus:

*From Selma to Montgomery - The Climactic Battle in  
America's Civil Rights Movement*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](http://School-Scout.de)





|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Titel:</b>            | <b>From Selma to Montgomery – The climactic Battle in America’s Civil Rights Movement</b>   |
| <b>Reihe:</b>            | Arbeitsblätter aus der Reihe „Englisch – aktuell“   |
| <b>Bestellnummer:</b>    | 62400   |
| <b>Kurzvorstellung:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diese fertig ausgearbeiteten Arbeitsblätter zur amerikanischen Landeskunde setzen sich diskursiv mit der amerikanischen Bürgerrechtsbewegung auseinander. 1965 kam es im Zuge der African-American Civil Rights Movement zu drei Protestmärschen, die zum politischen und emotionalen Höhepunkt der Bewegung gehören.</li><li>• Die SuS erhalten Einblick in die US-amerikanische Zeitgeschichte und Gesellschaft. Die SchülerInnen werden dazu angehalten, sich aktiv und diskursiv mit dem Thema zu beschäftigen und sich eine Meinung zu bilden.</li></ul> |
| <b>Inhaltsübersicht:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selma to Montgomery marches – Facts</li><li>• Selma to Montgomery marches - Quotes</li><li>• Ausführliche Lösungsvorschläge</li></ul>   |

## Work sheet 1: Selma to Montgomery marches – Facts

### VOTING RIGHTS FOR BLACKS IN SELMA, ALABAMA

In 1964, a climactic battle for voting rights for black people took place in Selma, Dallas County, Alabama. The Civil Rights movement in the United States with its charismatic Leader Martin Luther King jr. had already been fighting against racial discrimination for 10 years. Nevertheless, custom and law still prevented blacks from registering to vote. **More than half of Dallas County's citizens were black, but less than one percent was had been registered by the end of 1964.**

**In Selma, the registrar's office was open only two days per month.** Registrars would arrive late, leave early and take long lunch hours. Only few blacks who lined up would get in – and getting in was no guarantee of being registered.

### THE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

For more than a year, organizers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), had worked with local residents in waging a voter registration campaign. The campaign was repeatedly blocked by **Selma's Mayor Joseph Smitherman**, who opposed racial integration and regarded it as a big pressure on

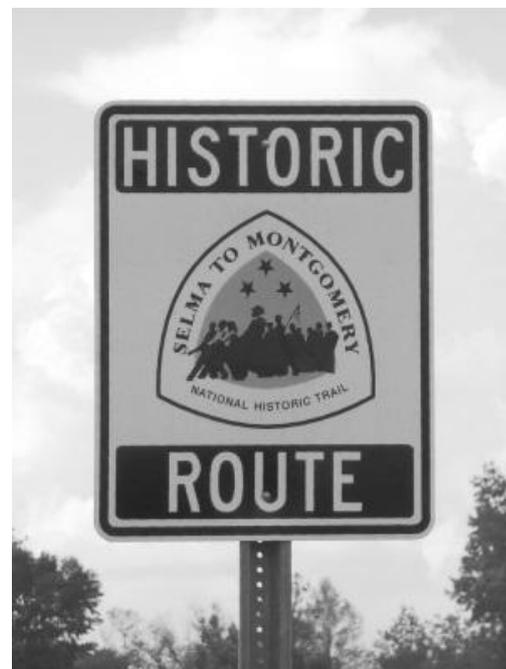
**his community. Selma's black leaders turned to Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to ask for help.**

SNCC and SCLC launched a combined effort on January 18th, 1965. The Dallas County courthouse steps became **a dramatic stage, as prospective voters lined up for the registrar's office in Selma. They were beaten by the police and forced to leave. Selma's Sheriff Jim Clark** drew media attention to the incident with his brutal and openly racist behaviour.

U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson became aware of the problem and set the goal to eliminate every remaining obstacle to the right and the opportunity to vote.

In mid-January, 105 local black teachers marched to the courthouse in protest, knowing they might be fired by the white school board. The teachers' marching was the first black middle class demonstration in Selma. After the teachers had marched, other groups would follow.

The campaign in Selma escalated when violence erupted during a night march in a neighbouring town. In that night, a young man named Jimmy Lee Jackson attempted to protect his mother from an attack. He was shot by an Alabama state trooper and died eight days later.



Selma to Montgomery marches' road sign  
(commons.wikimedia.org / Markuskun)

## Work sheet 2: Selma to Montgomery marches - Quotes

1. *All I could remember was an outburst of tear gas and I saw people beaten and began to just try to run home as fast as I could. I saw horses behind me, and I ran and ran and ran.*

2. *Such action will not be allowed to any group of citizens or non-citizens of the state of Alabama. There will be no march between Selma, Alabama and Montgomery, and I have so instructed the Department of Public Safety.*

3. *I am a segregationist. I do not believe in biracial committees. Our city and our county has been subjected to the greatest pressures I think any community in the country has had to withstand. We've had Martin Luther King, we have had people of the Nazi Party...*

4. *This courthouse is a serious place, uh, not Disneyland or something on parade. You came down to make a mockery out of this court house. If you come closer, I will loose my temper...*

5. *Everybody in the white power structure of this city must take a responsibility for everything that Jim Clark does and has created. If they don't, we will engage in broader and more drastic forms of civil disobedience in order to bring the attention of a nation to this whole issue in Selma, Alabama. We can't afford to stop now, because Alabama and our nation have a date with destiny.*

6. *In the nonviolent movement, if you went back to some of the classical strategies of Gandhi, when you have, say, a great violation of the people and there's a great sense of injury, you have to give people an honorable means and context in which to express and eliminate that grief and speak decisively back to the issue. Otherwise, your movement will break down in violence and chaos.*

7. *Sheriff Clark was not going to arrest us, as I really wanted him to do so, it would have drawn media attention. Therefore, we asked the teachers to regroup and we marched back – not to the school but to the Brown Chapel Church, at which time there was a service held.*

8. *I propose that we eliminate every remaining obstacle to the right and the opportunity to vote. Therefore I am going the sign the Voting rights bill.*

### **Martin Luther King jr.**

Leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement

### **Lyndon B. Johnson**

36th President of the United States (1963–1969)

### **Jim Clark**

Sheriff Dallas County (1955 – 1966)

### **Rev James Bevel**

Member of SCLC

### **George Wallace**

Alabama governor (4 terms, betw. 1962 and 1986)

### **Sheyann Webb**

Black schoolgirl, 8 years old in 1965

### **Joseph Smitherman**

Mayor of Selma (1964-2000)

### **Rev. Frederick D. Reese,**

President of the Selma Teachers Association

### **TASK**

Match the quotes to the people listed on the right. Write their names underneath the matching quote. You will find hints in the Station 1 text.



# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

## Auszug aus:

*From Selma to Montgomery - The Climactic Battle in  
America's Civil Rights Movement*

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](http://School-Scout.de)

