

# **Soldiers to Civil Rights Leaders:**

## **The Journeys of Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers**

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### *Overview:*

In this activity, students will learn about the military service of Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers, focusing on how their experiences during World War II influenced their leadership in the Civil Rights Movement, particularly during Freedom Summer. They will explore key events such as basic training, active duty, and post-war life, gaining insight into how these experiences shaped their commitment to fighting for equality. This content was gathered from historical readings on Moore and Evers.

*Audience:* Grades 6 to 12

### *Objectives:*

- Students will research the military service of Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers by analyzing primary sources.
- They will compare their experiences during basic training, active duty, and post-war life.
- They will discuss how these experiences influenced their roles in Freedom Summer.
- Students will present their findings through a creative project, connecting their military service to their civil rights contributions.

### *Documents*

#### **Primary Sources:**

- "Amzie Moore in Uniform." Photograph. Wisconsin Historical Society.  
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM34264>
- "Medgar Evers, Photographed During His Service in the U.S. Army in the Second World War." U.S. Army Photograph. National Park Service.  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/eisenhower-and-evers.htm>

## Secondary Sources:

- SNCC Digital Gateway – Amzie Moore <https://snccdigital.org/people/amzie-moore/>
- NAACP – Medgar Evers <https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/medgar-evers>

## Materials:

- Parchment paper
- Index cards
- Rulers
- Glue
- Markers
- Pencils
- Colored pencils

## Procedure:

Activity (60-70 minutes): Divide the class into two groups:

Group A: Focus on Amzie Moore      Group B: Focus on Medgar Evers

- Introduction and Overview (10 minutes): Begin with a brief discussion on the role of African American soldiers in World War II and the contradictions they faced: fighting for freedom abroad while being denied basic rights at home.

Introduce Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers, highlighting their military service and later work in the Civil Rights Movement.

- Group Research and Discussion (15 minutes): Each group will explore the military service of their assigned figure. Provide resources such as short articles, excerpts from biographies, or primary source documents to guide their research. (Added by teacher)
- Encourage students to consider: The challenges their figure faced during basic training and active duty. How these experiences influenced their views on freedom and equality. The impact of the GI Bill and their transition back to civilian life.
- Creative Timeline Creation (20 minutes): Students will create a visual timeline tracing their figure's journey from military service to civil rights activism. The timeline should include key events like enlistment, wartime experiences, and contributions to Freedom Summer. Encourage creativity with illustrations, symbols, or quotes to represent significant moments in their figure's life.

- Group Presentations and Class Reflection (15 minutes): Each group presents their timeline to the class, explaining how their figure's military service contributed to their leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.
- After both presentations, hold a class discussion to compare the experiences of Moore and Evers, focusing on how their military service uniquely prepared them for their civil rights work.
- Conclusion and Wrap-Up (5 minutes): Summarize the key insights from the activity, emphasizing the connection between military service and civil rights activism.