



FANNIE LOU HAMER: CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Say What?

Studying the life of a civil rights leader can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book you've never seen before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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Take a Stand

Hamer and her family were sharecroppers.

Sharecropping was a system that was similar in many ways to slavery. In what other ways do you think the legacy of slavery can be seen today? Why is it important for people to learn about slavery's legacy?





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Another View

This book talks about Hamer's contributions to the civil rights movement. As you know, every source is different. Ask an adult to help you find another source about this topic. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What is the point of view of each source? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about Hamer? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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Why Do I Care?

The civil rights movement happened more than 50 years ago. But that doesn't mean that it isn't important today. How does the legacy of the civil rights movement affect your life or the lives of others?





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Discussion Questions

- Hamer's mother told her that she should be proud of her race. Her mother also taught her to sing to cope with hardships. How did these lessons influence Hamer's activism?
- How did Hamer's experiences encourage her to become an activist? In what ways did she advocate for black people's civil rights?





- Hamer's speech at the 1964 Democratic National Convention was widely popular. Why do you think this is? Why did Hamer's message appeal to many people across the country?
- Hamer helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964. Why was it important to form a political party that represented black people's interests? Why is it important to represent people of different races in government?
- What is Hamer's legacy? How do you think her story and her legacy could be taught in schools and communities today?

