



Picturing a Protest

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. promoted civil disobedience and nonviolent protesting in the hopes that these acts would bring attention to inequality and cause positive change. The image on the next page is from the Woolworth's sit-in held in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1963. There is a lot happening in this photograph, and many people are pictured.

Photographs and images like this need some “unpacking” to ensure that no details are missed that might help us better understand the bigger picture. A good way to unpack information in an image is to divide it into quadrants, focusing on the details of each. Once you have examined each quadrant, you can put all of your observations together to interpret the meaning of the image. Considering the following about each quadrant can help the unpacking process.

- Who is in this section of the image? What does their expression tell me?
- What action is taking place in this section?
- What is the focus of this section?
- What does this section tell about the image as a whole?

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1. Describe the story this image tells about the Woolworth sit-in.
2. Why do you think the people at the counter were willing to face such abuse?
3. What does this image tell you about the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s? How does it compare to movements of today?

Approx. Time



- 30 minutes

Learning Target



- I can critically evaluate an image by breaking it into quadrants to unpack information.

Big Questions



- Why does dividing an image into quadrants help to unpack information?
- What can we learn about the Civil Rights Movement when we critically evaluate images?

Materials



- Writing materials
- [Woolworths Image](#)

Lesson Source



- [The Issue, Civil Rights, Vol 1.8](#)

