



# I AM A MAN VR EXPERIENCE

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the activity is to show students what it was like for black people during the civil rights movement. It presents the information using a creative method as an alternative to reading text by using imagery, visuals, music and the cinematic experience given by the VR app.

## MATERIALS

- Oculus Rift
- Oculus controller/Touch
- Use cardstock, notecards or print vintage looking postcards from <http://callmevictorian.com/1503/digital-vintage-printable-postcards/>
- Pre-activity charts
- During-VR observation question worksheets
- Colored pencils, markers
- Laptops or mobile devices for Kahoot

## SYNOPSIS

“I Am A Man” VR Experience is an interactive virtual reality experience set to the historic events of the African- American Civil Rights Movement.

“I Am A Man” puts the user in the shoes of a black sanitation worker during the Memphis Sanitation strike in 1968. There are a number of scenes that showcase the racism and segregation that was taking place, as well as what the strikes looked like. The experience also covers the rise and assassination of MLK Jr. and the aftermath of that incident.

The vision is to give people an experience of history in a way that provides a more personal understanding of the struggles of these marginalized people. The VR experience allows one to literally walk in the shoes of people who fought for freedom and equality during the civil rights era. Most importantly, this project gives users a deeper awareness of their struggle. Using historical film and photographs, along with voice narrations of actual Civil Rights participants, the project falls along the lines of a new type of interactive-documentary experience. I Am A Man VR experience looks to help usher in this rich new way of experiencing history.

## TIMELINE

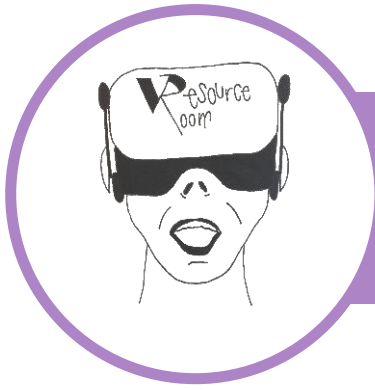
This activity is designed to be completed in 3-45 minute sessions.

Day 1- Review and Pre-VR activity

Day 2- VR activity and Kahoot

Day 3- Discussion and Post-Activity





# I AM A MAN VR

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

### Pre-VR Activity

Students will use the worksheet with prompts for students to write down what they know about topics in the civil rights movement. If this is information that has not been covered, let them use the Internet to research the questions and write down facts in the Student Activity Guide. The students can be bullet points with descriptions, 2-3 “facts” about each is the goal, right or wrong.

Prompts:

- Memphis Sanitation Strike
- Martin Luther King Jr
- Lorraine’s Motel
- SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference)

### During VR

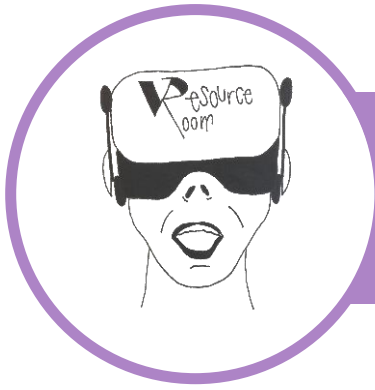
Kahoot: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/i-am-a-man/13d43c74-c1e2-44c0-b562-7309409a3e13>

### Post VR

Postcards from the Past Activity

- Students will choose a role to take on and will write a letter or postcard to a friend or family member describing either their life in the midst of recent events (The strike or MLK). 5-6 sentences
- Examples of roles they could assume: Sanitation worker, civil rights activist, etc.





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## TIMELINE

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### Day 1

- The teacher conducts a basic introduction or review of the civil rights movement before students do the pre-activity.
- Students complete the pre-activity
- Place students in groups of 4-5 and have them share what they “know”.

### Day 2

- The class divides in half. One half will go through the app while the other does a Kahoot on facts related to the app.
- After the students in VR finish, the two groups will switch.

### Day 3

- The full class can discuss their experiences and share stories.
- Complete the “Postcards From the Past” activity.





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## STANDARDS

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### American History

- **Expectation:** Summarize the struggle for racial and gender equality and the extension of civil rights that occurred in the United States in the postwar period.
- **Learning Targets:** Summarize the struggle for racial, gender, and extension of civil rights that occurred in the postwar period.

