



STUDENT WORKSHEET #1 (2 pages)

Timeline of U.S. Representative John Lewis's Life (1940–2020)

Directions:

These are important moments in John Lewis's life. How did his experiences shape him as a leader?

1940

- John Lewis was born on February 21, 1940, in Troy, Alabama.
- He grew up on a farm and experienced racial segregation as a child.

1950's

- As a teenager, John Lewis became inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- He believed in **nonviolence** and wanted to become a minister.

1960

- John Lewis attended **American Baptist College** in Nashville, Tennessee.
- While in college, he joined the Civil Rights Movement and participated in **sit-ins** to protest segregation.

Early 1960's

- John Lewis later attended **Fisk University** in Nashville, Tennessee.
- He **graduated from Fisk University**, earning a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy.

1961

- John Lewis became one of the **Freedom Riders**, risking his life to challenge segregation on buses across the South.

1963

- At age 23, John Lewis was the **youngest speaker** at the March on Washington.
- He introduced Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before the "I Have a Dream" speech.

1965

- John Lewis helped lead the **Selma to Montgomery Marches**.
- He was severely beaten on “**Bloody Sunday**” while peacefully marching for voting rights.

1970's–1980's

- John Lewis continued working for civil rights and social justice.
- He became involved in politics to create change through laws.

1987

- John Lewis was elected to the **U.S. House of Representatives**.

1987–2020

- John Lewis served in Congress as a **Representative from Georgia for 30 years**.
- He spoke out for voting rights, equality, and human rights.
- He encouraged young people to get into “**good trouble**” for justice.

2020

- John Lewis passed away on July 17, 2020.
- He is remembered as a Civil Rights hero and a moral leader.

Reflection Question (Optional)

Which moment in John Lewis's life do you think highlights his courage? Why?

References

- Lewis, John, with Michael D'Orso. *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*. Simon & Schuster.
- National Archives: Biography of John Lewis – <https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/individuals/john-lewis>