

Civil Rights Movement

1- Multiple choice. Choose the correct past form of the verbs in the text.

After the American Civil war (1861-65), different groups of citizens **fought / had fought** for the rights that the American Constitution **recognized / had recognized** and guaranteed. The civil rights movement in the United States was about the campaign of African Americans.

Slavery **was coming / had come** to an end and African Americans **became / had become** citizens and had got the right to vote.

However, these new laws were often ignored. In the southern states blacks were treated as second class citizens because of their skin color. They **did not have / hadn't had** the rights white people **were enjoying / had enjoyed** for a long time.

This injustice on African Americans **led / was leading** to a time of social unrest. Black people as well and white supporters **rose / had risen** up to fight against the social systems and public authorities that **took / were taking** those rights away. They challenged segregation and discrimination carrying out protest marches, boycotts, and refusing to abide by segregation laws.

As they **were standing / had marched** up for their rights they suffered / **had suffered** imprisonment, threats, discrimination and injustice but they endured bravery.



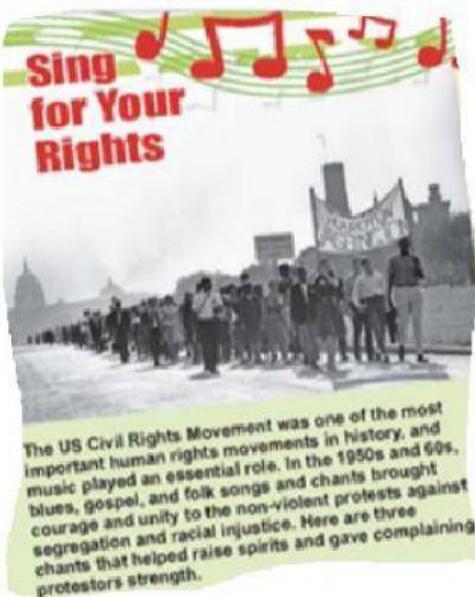
what helped them undergo so much suffering?

According to many of the activists, music played a vital role. At rallies, sit-ins, protests and even in jail, people

were always singing / had always sung. Whether it was African American gospels, protest songs, or chants against racism, violence, and injustice, amazing songs **brought / were bringing** people together, served as a battle cry, made the events memorable and increased unity, morale and courage.

One of such songs, associated to the Civil rights movement was

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around



Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around

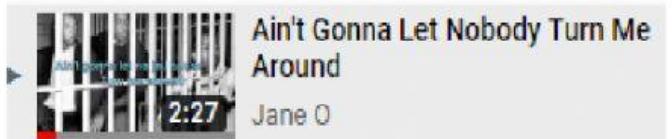
2- Read the text and listen to this song.

<https://youtu.be/2MGIpBT2fAo>

This was one of the best known and most influential songs at that time.

It was used to spread the message of faith, determination, and perseverance of the people who sang them.

It was repetitive with a constant rhythm and chorus.



The word **NOBODY** could be replaced to suit the situation, to reflect the change the people were demanding. This old spiritual was sung in Albany (Georgia) during the summer of 1962 when segregationists were arresting black people. Demonstrations erupted and disorder had gained the streets.

3- Watch this video and answer:

<https://youtu.be/27sNOouXRJU>



1- Who does she refer to when she says:

- 'We were engaged in a very intense struggle against racial segregation'

2- 'A Federal Judge issued an injunction issued by the Federal Judge was:

- a legal order requiring activists to stop demonstrations
- b. a legal order requiring segregationists to stop arresting black people?

3- Who was Samuel Wells?

4- What did he mean when he declared: -'I'm not going to let no injunction turn me round'

5- Between minutes 1:02 and 1:15 she makes a joke. What do you think she means?

4- Listen to the song

Ain't gonna let **nobody** turn me 'round
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walkin' Keep on talkin'
Marchin' to that freedom land

Ain't gonna let **injunction** turn me 'round
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round
Ain't gonna let injunction turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walkin' Keep on talkin'
Marchin' to that freedom land

Ain't gonna let **jail house** turn me 'round
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round
Ain't gonna let jail house turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walkin' Keep on talkin'
Marchin' to that freedom land

Ain't gonna let **nobody** turn me 'round
I'm gonna keep on walkin' Keep on talkin'
Marchin' to that freedom land

Meaning in context

Ain't gonna = I'm not going to
Turn me 'round: Prevent, dissuade.
Walkin': Walking
Talkin': Talking
Marchin' : Marching

5 - The highlighted words were often replaced by other words to suit the demand of the demonstration.

a- Think of 5 other words used by activists in Civil Rights Movement days

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b- Write 5 words illustrating nowadays' issues you would protest against.

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