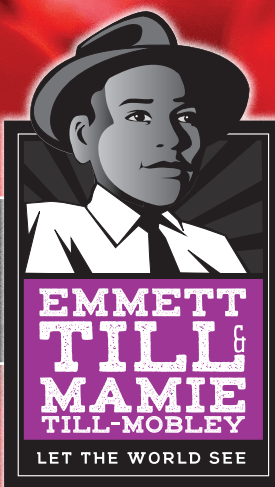


AGES 8+

TIME

One hour

ROCKS TO RIPPLES



CHILDREN'S
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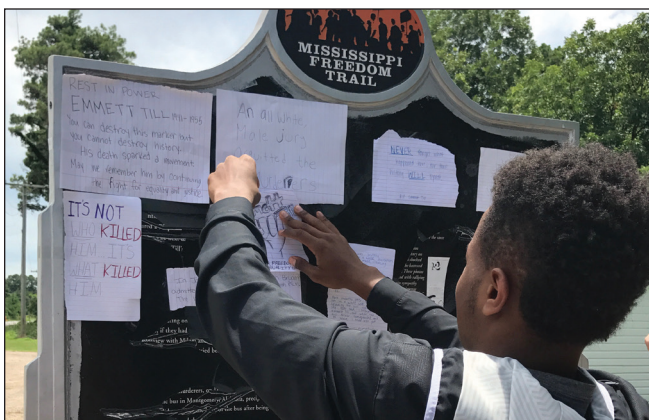
ROCKS TO RIPPLES

One way to support change in your community is by sharing how you are working to make the community a better place, and encouraging others to do the same. Mamie Till- Mobley said *"The murder of my son has shown me that what happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of us all."*

In the exhibit **Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See**, you may have learned about changemakers, and specific actions that changemakers take, to improve their community. If you throw a rock in the water, the ripples that you see in the water are small waves carrying away the energy from where you threw the rock. In this family activity, you can create a visual reminder of actions your family decided to take, share these actions with others, or spread positive messages with your community. You too can join Mamie's ripples for justice.



Mamie Till-Mobley at anti-lynching rally in Harlem, NY, 1955



Student notes and letters to Emmett Till on a historical marker in Mississippi.



EXPLORATION QUESTIONS

- What are some examples of how racism impacts our world today?
- What examples of change for justice have you noticed in your community?
- Who are the changemakers in your community?

MATERIALS

- Acrylic Paint
- Paint brush
- Permanent markers
- Acrylic sealer (spray or paint brush) - optional
- Rocks
- Bookmark from the exhibit



How to Create Your Rock:

- Review the changemaker action that your family learned in the exhibit. The “Take Action” section of the Emmett Till exhibit includes a list of actions you may have learned about.
- Decide on an action that your family is going to take, or messages that you would like to share with your community.
- Each person in the family should select a rock on which they can write their message.
- Before painting the rocks, make sure to cover your workspace with paper.
- Using paint or permanent markers, decorate your rocks, and add your actions or positive messages.
- Let your rocks dry completely.
- If you would like to keep your rocks outside, paint or spray your rocks with an acrylic sealer. If using a spray, ask an adult to help, following the directions on the sealer.



SHARING YOUR ROCK!

There are several ways to share your rock.

- Place your rock in a prominent place in your home, as a reminder of the actions you are going to take.
- Find a place in your yard, garden, or a planter to display your rock.
- If it's allowed in your community, place your rock along a trail, or at a playground to share the message.
- Give your rock to a friend in your community, and share how you are going to follow this action. Invite them to do the same!



About Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See

The exhibit, “Let the World See,” shares the story of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. In 1955, Emmett traveled from Chicago, Illinois to Money, Mississippi to spend time with his cousins. Emmett was kidnapped and murdered for whistling at a white woman. Three days after his murder, Emmett’s body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River. His mother, Mamie, insisted on an open-casket funeral to “let the world see” what had happened to her son. The brutal death and subsequent acquittal of Emmett’s murderers sparked outrage across the country and fueled civil rights protests in years to come.



The views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Institute of Museum and Library Services or Department of the Interior. This project was made possible in part by The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom, the Maddox Foundation in Hernando, MS, The Institute for Museum and Library Services [MH-249226-OMS-21], and The Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior [15.904].

Resources

Family reading time allows you to learn and consider additional ways to support change. Check out these titles from your local library or bookstore:

- *A Kids Book About Racism* by Jelani Memory
- *Sometimes People March* by Tessa Allen
- *Rise Up and Write It* by Nandini Ahuja
- *Oh, the Things We're For!* by Innosanto Nagara

PERSISTENT RACISM

In 2008, a group of citizens from Sumner, Mississippi installed a historical marker where Emmett's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River. The marker was to be a permanent reminder of the African-American child whose death galvanized the civil rights movement. But the sign was stolen and thrown into the river. A second and third were installed, each riddled with bullets. Now, there is a fourth sign, this one made of steel. It weighs more than 500 pounds. It is more than an inch thick and bulletproof. Acts of destruction and vandalism, as occurred on the Indianapolis #BLACKLIVESMATTER street mural, persist in cities and towns throughout our nation, serving as evidence of ongoing racial tension in our society.



VOCABULARY

- Prejudice
- Racism
- Discrimination

WHY SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT EMMETT'S STORY?

Learning about Emmett Till helps children understand why there is so much attention on the subject of racism in our society. They see, hear, and read news about current events. They may hear commentary and witness interactions between youth and adults in schools and the community. They may experience prejudice and racism in their own lives. Learning about Emmett Till helps children develop empathy toward those who suffer discrimination. By reflecting on what they learn, children may equip themselves with language and action plans that promote a more just and civil society.



Photo Credits: Painted rocks (Cover), The Children's Museum of Indianapolis; Mamie Till-Mobley (page 2), Grey Villet / The LIFE Picture Collection / Shutterstock; Freedom Trail sign (page 2), Holly Ingraham/Cultural Leadership; We still march (page 2), Getty Images, Photographer/Artist: Natasha Moustache; Materials (page 2), The Children's Museum of Indianapolis; Rock steps, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis; Emmet Till funeral (page 3), Chicago History Museum, ST-17500641-E1, Chicago Sun-Times Collection Sign with bullet holes (page 4), Emmett Till Interpretive Center; Multicultural children's arms (page 4), melita / Adobe Stock