

*The Trail They Blazed*  
**GOOGLE MAPPING ACTIVITY**

## **Overview**

These activities use geography to deepen students' understanding of the experiences of New Orleans residents during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Students will use Google Maps to locate important places related to the Civil Rights Movement, including sites of protest and resistance in New Orleans.

## **About Google Maps**

Google Maps is a free tool that uses satellite imagery and other forms of geographic data to create detailed maps of the world. Activities using Google Maps can also help students move from being passive consumers of information to being active creators of the content.

To complete these activities, students will need a device with internet access.

## Young Leaders of New Orleans

In the mid-1960s young activists became swept up in a worldwide generational youth revolt, taking a stand against racial injustice. An estimated 69 percent of all Black students in the South took part in resistance activities and politics.

For this mapping activity, we are asking students to read a short summary of the history of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). After reading, students should use the following map to answer the reading questions:

[The Trail They Blazed Mapping Activity.](#)

## The Reading

### A Short Summary of CORE

In 1942, CORE was founded as a social justice organization that emphasized non-violent strategies for civil resistance in the United States. CORE attracted young college students because its members were often looked at as intellectuals concerned with broader issues around racial equality, in contrast to the more conservative concerns of the older generation of Civil Rights Movement activists.

In 1957, CORE was able to expand for the first time into the South when it established chapters in South Carolina. As CORE grew larger and moved into new communities, the organization adapted their techniques of resistance to address the issues faced in various locales.

On February 1, 1960, four students at North Carolina A&T University began a sit-in movement that spread rapidly throughout the South. Shortly after, seven students from Southern University in Louisiana held a sit-in at the lunch counter of the Kress store in downtown Baton Rouge. In both instances, the students leading these protests were a part of CORE. The actions taken by the students at North Carolina A&T and Southern

University inspired university students from New Orleans to create a local CORE chapter to join the Civil Rights Movement.

## Questions

1. What were the reasons for starting CORE? What do you think are reasons that would cause James Farmer and CORE members to consider non-violent strategies of civil resistance?
2. How could the experiences of CORE members in the South differ from CORE members who organized in Northern states?
3. After listening to Robert Tyrone Patterson Sr.'s interview, what do you think attracted young leaders to get involved in sit-ins?

4. What two events happened in Greensboro and Baton Rouge that inspired college students in New Orleans to establish a chapter?

5. How did the future leaders of CORE in New Orleans meet?

6. What have you learned about CORE after completing this activity?