This film runs for a total of 38 minutes. It is split over three segments on YouTube, which you can access via my SchoolWires Page. The movie covers the major events of the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 – 1965.

Watch the film. It begins at the grave of Jimmie Lee Jackson then goes back in time to set the context of segregation and tell the story of the murder of Emmett Till. From there, the events are shown in the order in which they happened.

Here is a timeline of events in the film. Each of these events has a segment devoted to it. Pay special attention to the events from 1963 to 1965. Study the timeline, then preview the questions on the next page before watching the film.

1955 – Murder of Emmett Till

1955 / 1956 – Arrest of Rosa Parks / Montgomery Bus Boycott

1957 – Integration of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas

1960 – Lunch-counter sit-ins begin in Greensboro, North Carolina

1961 – Freedom Rides

1963 – Martin Luther King writes his famous “Letter from a Birmingham jail”

1963 – Bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama

1964 – Voter registration drives in the South

1964 – Murder of civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi

1965 – Murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson

1965 – Selma to Montgomery March known as “Bloody Sunday”
Answer the following questions on separate paper. You may answer questions 1 – 21 in notes or bullets form. However, question 22 must be answered in complete and thoughtful sentences.

1955 – Murder of Emmett Till
1. How old was Emmett Till? Why was he murdered?
2. Emmett Till’s mother wanted an open casket funeral for her son. How did this help the movement?
3. Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam were identified as the killers and even admitted to the murder, but the all white jury took only one hour to declare them not guilty. What does this tell you?

1955 / 1956 – Arrest of Rosa Parks / Montgomery Bus Boycott
4. What happened in Montgomery that brought Blacks together to protest their treatment?

1957 – Integration of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas
5. What did the mob at Central High School do to the nine Black students who tried to integrate the school in Little Rock Arkansas?
6. How did the nine teenagers typically get to school?

1960 – Sit-ins
7. The Little Rock Nine inspired young college students to action. What was the first thing they organized in the winter of 1960?
8. What did the white people in the restaurants do to the peaceful protestors?
9. What philosophy did the Civil Rights Movement use?

1961 – Freedom Rides
10. In Virginia and the Carolinas, the Freedom Riders suffered intimidations. However, what happened once they got to the Deep South? What happened when the Freedom Riders got to Montgomery, Alabama? What happened in Jackson, Mississippi?

1963 – Martin Luther King, Jr. writes his famous “Letter from a Birmingham jail”
11. What is the message of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham jail”?

1963 – Bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama
12. Who was killed in the Sunday morning bombing at the Birmingham Sixteenth Baptist Church? Who did the bombing?
1964 – Voter Registration Drives in the South
13. In 1964 hundreds of students from the North traveled to Mississippi to help Blacks register to vote. Why were Blacks afraid to register to vote?

14. Why were Whites so against Blacks having the right to vote?

1964 – Murder of civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi
15. What happened to Michael Schwerner, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman? Why did their deaths cause national attention?

16. What did the FBI find when they were dragging the river looking for the three young men?

17. Were the men charged with their murder convicted?

18. In Marion Alabama 50 percent of the eligible voting population was black, but what percentage of them registered to vote?

1965 – Murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson
19. Who was Jimmie Lee Jackson trying to protect when was killed?

1965 – Selma to Montgomery March known as “Bloody Sunday”
20. What was Bloody Sunday?

21. How do you think the viewing public might have reacted across the country when they saw news footage of “Bloody Sunday” on TV?

Final Analysis (1955 – 1965)
22. In your opinion, between 1955 and 1965 how successful was the Civil Rights Movement? How successful were the strategies of non-violence and civil disobedience? Explain your answer and your reasoning.