



The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

An illustration of the Evers family and their dog Heidi in a park. Medgar stands in the background in a light blue shirt and tan pants. Myrlie stands to the left in a pink dress and pearl necklace. Reena stands in the middle in an orange dress with pigtails. Van stands in front of her in a white baseball uniform. Darrell is on the right, wearing a green shirt, blue shorts, a tan hat, and a star badge, waving. Heidi is a large dog on the left wearing a blue and white striped shirt with a collar. A squirrel is on a tree branch in the top left, and a large tree is on the right. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.

Medgar

Myrlie

Reena

Darrell

Van

Heidi

Hello friend!


My name is Alcorn.
What's yours?

Write your name here.

This Junior Ranger Activity Book tells a story, and it all begins with one little seed. Join me in watering and caring for it, page-by-page. You can help me collect water by crossing off water droplets you earn as you complete activities.

Here are some tips!

1. Do your best. Finish as much of the booklet as you can.
2. Show off your work. Let a trusted adult see your work as you finish to really wow them.
3. Become a Junior Ranger. Fill out your completion certificate and make it official.
4. Have fun! Don't forget to find the joy in learning.

At the end of each activity, you will see one or more water droplets that look like this: 

Color in the droplets to "collect" them. Keep track of your droplets throughout the booklet, and fill in your total on the last page.



I live in the treetops here above Margaret Walker Alexander Drive, and I like to watch over the people that live below. In 1956, a very brave family, the Evers, built a home in this neighborhood once known as the Elaine subdivision, which was designed for African American families.



Our neighborhood was a part of a major transformation happening in the United States during this time. African Americans in the South fought desperately against racial **inequality***, facing violence, harassment, and unfair restrictions as part of their everyday life. In the 1950s and 1960s, Medgar and Myrlie Evers emerged as leaders in the civil rights movement, advocating for equity, justice, and liberty. They had a vision of a future with equal education, desegregated public spaces, and legal prohibition of racial discrimination.

We encourage you to share comments and questions with our park rangers. Speak with a trusted adult (like a parent, teacher, or school counselor) to continue the conversation during and after your visit as you learn about the Evers family and their contributions to the civil rights movement.

Glossary Term

Use what you have learned from Alcorn to select the best definition.

INEQUALITY



- A time of year
- Unfair treatment by authority
- The distance between 2 points

Answer: Unfair treatment by authority

How many droplets have you collected so far?



The road to Jackson

1925

Medgar Wiley Evers is born in Decatur, Mississippi

1933

Myrlie Louise Beasley is born in Vicksburg, Mississippi

1950

Medgar & Myrlie meet at Alcorn A&M College

1952

Medgar & Myrlie move to Mound Bayou, Mississippi

1952

Medgar works as an organizer for a regional civil rights organization in the Mississippi Delta

1954

Medgar becomes the Field Secretary of the Mississippi NAACP

GUYNES ST.

4

Let's follow Medgar and Myrlie on their journey to Jackson, Mississippi.

It's the Evers family! Let's help them get unpacked.

Match the items with their owners.



I love being in nature.



I've played music since I was a kid.



I like playing with my favorite toys.



I'm the youngest member of the family.




I can't wait to race my new friends.




1955

The family moves to Jackson, Mississippi

Describe what home means to you in one word: 

Scavenger Hunt


Find as many objects as you can inside and outside of the Evers' family home.

Each object is worth one (1) droplet. 



★ You'll need to use your **observational** skills for this one!




 Rotary phone
What color is it?



 Bathtub
What color is the faucet?



 Piano

What room is it in?




Because their work was so dangerous, the Evers had to take **unconventional*** safety measures in their home, like putting beds on the floor away from windows.. They even taught their children to do safety drills.



 Door

Does the house have a front door?



 Bookshelf

What is your favorite book?

List three things at both your home and the Evers's home. 

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Glossary Term

UNCONVENTIONAL

Out of the ordinary, or something that not everyone does.

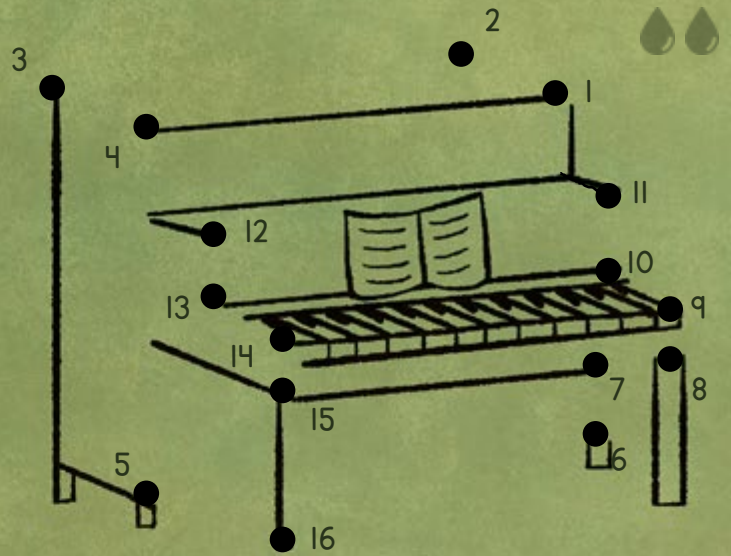


The sounds of gospel, jazz, and classical music filled the Evers family's home. Myrlie is a classically trained pianist, and even performed at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in 2012!


During the civil rights movement, music was used as an outlet for feelings of hope, grief, and unity. Musicians spread the message of civil rights in song and even used music to fundraise for the cause.

Medgar and Myrlie loved spending time with their children dancing and playing. Medgar's nickname for his daughter, Reena, was "Sunshine". Their children were the warm embrace that kept them going.

Connect the dots to find out what the Evers loved to hear together!



Think of some activities that you love doing with your community, your friends, or your family.

List them below. 




How many droplets have you collected so far?



Medgar's job as field secretary made him the face of the movement in Mississippi. He traveled all over, speaking on behalf of people who were often ignored or silenced. He spoke about fairness, justice, and the importance of taking action. Myrlie Evers became a powerful speaker, too. She even spoke at the inauguration of President Obama.

Playing With Words

Ask your parent, teacher, or friend for a: NAME, NUMBER, ADJECTIVE, PLACE, HOBBY, and ADVERB. Then, fill in the blanks to see what your speech sounds like! 

My name is . I am years old. I think everyone should be treated . Things have not always been fair in , and that makes me feel very . I want people to know me for , the way that people know Medgar & Myrlie Evers for their fellowship and dedication.






“I’ve got to do something for my kids.”

Medgar and Myrlie were heroes in the fight for civil rights, and their kids were their driving force. African American children faced unfair treatment and violence, just like adults. Under segregation laws, African American children did not receive equal education and access to public spaces which led to them being central figures in the push for equality.

In 1954, the Supreme Court issued a milestone decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*: they said that separate schools for white and black children were unconstitutional. But many southern states found ways to avoid desegregation.

In 1963 Medgar and Myrlie served as lead plaintiffs in a school desegregation suit. The court not only ruled against Darrell, it also “respectfully urge[d] a complete reconsideration of the decision in the *Brown* case.” School desegregation cases, even when they were unsuccessful, showed that many states were ignoring federal laws. This forced the federal government to act. Mississippi’s schools would finally desegregate in 1970, sixteen years after the *Brown* decision.”

Break the code!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
												

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												

Who were the people that fought for equality alongside Medgar and Myrlie Evers?

Use the key above to decode the answer.



—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
												
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
												

His pursuit of progress and civil rights made Medgar Evers a target for violence. Some people did not want rights for African Americans and they were willing to take Medgar's life to stop him from bringing about change. The Evers family constantly received threatening phone calls. After Medgar appeared on the local news station, things got worse. In May of 1963, someone threw a bomb at their home.

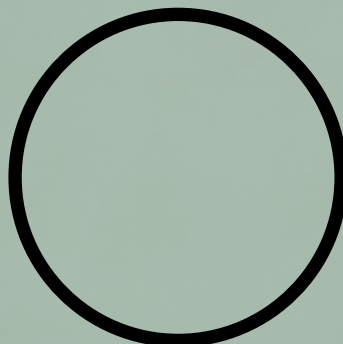
On June 12, 1963, after coming home from a NAACP meeting in Jackson, Medgar Evers was **assassinated*** at his home. His life with Myrlie Evers and their children came to an end. His death was devastating to those that knew him and to the civil rights movement, but especially to his wife and young children who lost the future they imagined together.

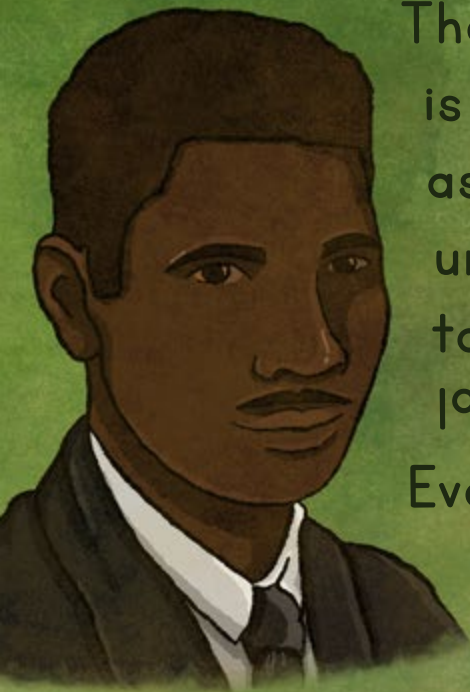
Glossary Term

ASSASSINATION

A murder by sudden or secret attack, often for political reasons.

In times like these, it's very important to feel, understand, and manage your emotions. Try to take a moment to close your eyes, and take a few deep breaths. Think about what you are feeling right now, and draw it on the face below. This is a quick and easy exercise that you can use the next time you need to process difficult emotions.





The tragedy of Medgar Evers's death is not where our story ends. The assassination illuminated the urgent need for civil rights laws to combat racial injustice. On July 2, 1964, which would have been Medgar Evers's 39th birthday, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, and kick-started integration* in the state of Mississippi and throughout the United States of America.

And, just like our wonderful rose bush, the Evers's story and the civil rights movement continue to grow!



Glossary Term

Choose the word that is an antonym, or OPPOSITE, of this term:

INTEGRATION



- UNIFY
- SEGREGATION
- COMMUNITY
- JOIN



Answer: Segregation

After Medgar Evers's death, Myrlie Evers and her children moved to California. But Myrlie never stopped fighting for what was right, and she continued the story. She pushed on until Medgar's killer was finally found guilty in 1994.

Myrlie Evers faced unequal treatment as an African American and as a woman. She broke barriers in her career, leading the NAACP and corporations, writing books, and even running for office. She showed that everyone should have equal opportunities, regardless of race or gender.

The Evers children, devastated by their father's passing, have embraced creativity as an expressive outlet. Darrell was a skilled painter, Van is a talented photographer, and Reena studied fashion. She now serves as the Executive Director of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, where she continues to honor her parents' legacy.



How many droplets have you collected so far?



Exploring creativity can take many forms. Share a sample here of your favorite way to express your creativity!

Examples: Draw a picture, write a poem, or tell a joke.



Happy Place

Everyone needs to find peace and relax sometimes. Myrlie's Garden is a great place to do just that!

Let's take a look at your Happy Place. Close your eyes. Think about somewhere that makes you feel happy and safe. Now fill in your answers on the flower!

What I See

What I Can Touch

What I Can Taste

My Happy Place Is

What I Hear

What I Smell

If you need to talk about how you feel after doing this activity, talk to an adult you trust, like a parent, teacher, or counselor. And if you ever feel upset or just want to feel better, think about your Happy Place. It's always there for you, no matter how you feel!





How many total droplets did you collect?

The seed that we planted together grew into the big and beautiful rose bush behind me—all thanks to your hard work collecting water!

Help the story go on in your own way by being kind, showing love, and standing up for equality like Medgar and Myrlie Evers.



Congratulations!

This is to certify that

_____ (Your Name Here)

completed the
Junior Ranger Program
at the Medgar and Myrlie Evers
Home National Monument.



I, _____ promise to always:
Junior Ranger signature

_____ Park Ranger or Trusted Adult signature

Date:

-  Be Kind
-  Show Love
-  Spread Joy
-  Grow



These artists used their talents and creativity to create this art to honor the Evers family.



Larry Silver



Adrienne Brown David



Kira Cummings



Sabrina Howard

For more information visit our website at:
nps.gov/MEMY