

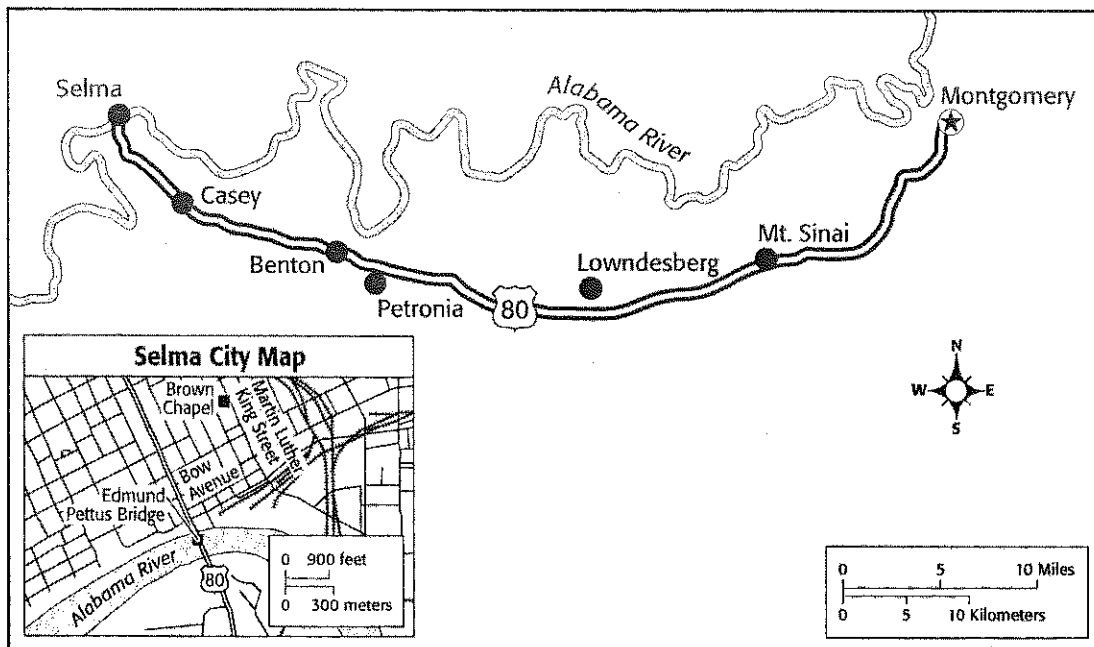
# Selma-to-Montgomery March

In March 1965 civil rights leaders turned their attention to securing the right of African Americans to vote. To highlight the fact that this right was still routinely denied to many African Americans in the South, the leaders organized a march from Selma, Alabama, to the Alabama state capitol building in Montgomery.

On March 7, about 600 people left Brown Chapel in Selma to begin the march. They headed out of Selma on U.S. Highway 80. Six blocks away, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were met by state troopers and members of the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, who attacked the peaceful marchers and sent them back to Selma.

Martin Luther King Jr. called for a second march two days later. The marchers tried to gain protection from the federal court, but instead the court issued a restraining order that prohibited the marchers from heading to Montgomery. As a result, the group chose to hold a shorter symbolic march. In this second march, they did not go all the way to Montgomery. Instead they went as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge and turned back.

Shortly afterward, a federal judge ruled that the state could not deny the people their right to march. On March 21, 1965, about 3,200 marchers left Selma for Montgomery. They walked approximately 12 miles a day. By the time the marchers arrived at the state capitol on Dexter Avenue in Montgomery on March 24, they numbered 25,000. Within five months of this final march, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights of 1965.





## The Civil Rights Movement

## History and Geography

### MAP ACTIVITY

1. Draw a circle around the starting point of the Selma to Montgomery March.
2. Draw a square around the ending point of the first and second marches.
3. Using three different color pens, draw and label the route of each of the three marches. (The first two marches began along what is now Martin Luther King Street and then traveled along Bow Avenue to Route 80.) Use the different maps as needed.

### ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Location** What direction did the marchers travel to get from Selma to Montgomery?  
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2. **Movement** Based on the map's scale, approximately how many miles did the marchers walk from Selma to Montgomery?  
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3. **Comparing and Contrasting** Two of the marches ended at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. What was different about those two marches?  
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4. **Predict** What impact do you think the incident on the Edmund Pettus Bridge during the first march had on the level of participation in the successful Selma-to-Montgomery March, and why?  
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