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Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

African American history has a great importance among American history. All around the country, there are historical sites that are preserved in remembrance of African American citizens that fought for their civil rights. One of these places is the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, where many people, black and white, marched in protest for African American voting rights.

In 1965, many efforts were being made to give voting rights to African American citizens. One of the largest efforts being made was from an organization called the Southern Christian Leadership Council, also known as the SCLC. The well known civil rights advocate, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a part of this organization. On March 7th, 1965, Martin Luther King Jr., lead a march of 600 people which was planned by the SCLC. This march was to go to from the organization's headquarters in Selma, Alabama, to the Alabama state Capitol, in Montgomery. The purpose of the march was to present a petition to the governor of Alabama, George Wallace. The first attempt of the march only lasted for a small time before they were turned around by state troopers. Dr. King made a second attempt on March 9th, but he was stopped once again by the state troopers. After the second attempt, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the march and on March 21, the third and final march began. Around 2,000 people marched 12 hours a day and slept in the fields at for 4 long days. These people knew that in the end, the march would lead to an ultimate victory.

When the marchers made it to Montgomery, they were greeted by around 50,000 supporters. When Dr. King, and the marchers presented the petition to Governor Wallace, he ignored them and ordered them to leave. What nobody knew at the time is that things were being taken care of at the national level. Several days after the now historic march, President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a joint of congress, calling to "Protect African Americans from the barriers preventing them from voting". That August, the Voting Rights Act was passed, giving all African Americans the right to vote.

In conclusion, the march from Selma to Montgomery was very important to United States history, and it will always be remembered. Dr. King and the SCLC made several attempts before starting the final march on March 21, 1965, but not to long after that, all African American citizens were given the right to vote.