

Emmett Till Worksheet

1. What was Emmett Till's family background? personal background?

His dad was a soldier that had died in WW2 and he was also an only child. When he was younger he had been diagnosed with polio, he recovered but had a slight stutter.

2. Where was Emmett going on vacation? When? Why? Who was he going with and who was he visiting?

He was going to Mississippi in August 1955 to visit his cousins and he was going up there by himself

3. On the evening of August 24, 1955, where did Emmett go, with whom, and why?

He went to Bryant's Grocery with his cousins and some friends to buy gum and/or a soda

4. Who owned the store?

Roy Bryant

5. Why did Emmett go into the store? What did he do?

He went into the store to buy bubble gum. They are uncertain what had happened next but he either flirted, whistled or touched her waist

6. What happened on August 28, 1955 at Mose Wright's home? Who were the two men?

The 2 men were Roy Bryant and J.W Milam. The 2 men had kidnapped him

7. When Emmett's body was found by a white boy fishing in the Tallahatchie River, how was the body's condition described?

They said his body was disfigured and decomposing

8. What story did they tell Alabama journalist, William Bradford Huie after their trial?

They told him how they both kidnapped and killed Emmett. They confessed

9. How was Till's body positively identified?

It was identified by his initialed ring

10. What happened when the casket with Till's body was returned to Chicago to his mother?

They had an open casket so everybody could see what they did to him

11. The trial started on September 19, 1955 and ended on September 23, 1955.

a. Why were black witnesses hesitant about testifying in court?

They were hesitant to testify in court because they were scared they were going to be beaten or hurt

b. Explain the reasons for the all-white jury. Who made up the jury?

There was an all white jury because no black men and/or women were eligible to be a juror and it would have been a hard task to find an unbiased bunch

c. Why was Mose Wright's testimony important?

Moses Wright's testimony was important because he said he witnessed them carrying Emmett out of the house and he was also the one to identify Emmett Till's body

f. What was the verdict and why?

They were arrested and charged with murder but the jurors decided not guilty