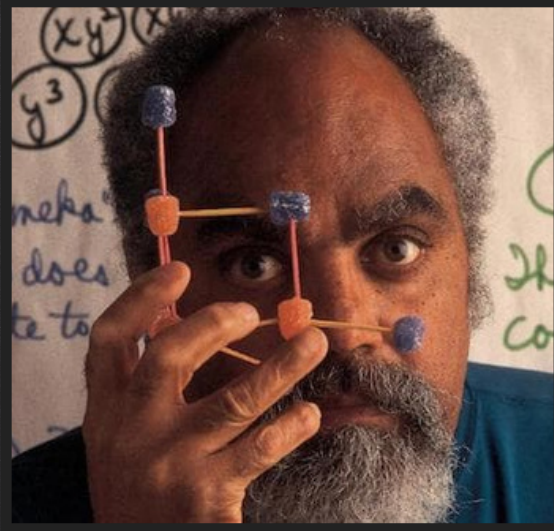


# MATHEMATICIAN & ACTIVIST

# ROBERT "BOB" MOSES

"MATHEMATICS  
LITERACY IS A CIVIL  
RIGHTS ISSUE."



Pronunciation:  
(rob-bert bob mow-sus)

Life: 1935-2021

Known for: The Algebra  
Project & Civil Rights  
Movement leadership

## MATH HERO

In the Algebra Project students learn:

- "We can do math."
- To take their own words and pictures ("real talk") and convert those ideas into mathematical expressions using symbols ("feature talk").
- To summarize situations visually using graphs and charts.
- To expand on the arithmetic notion of "How many?" to include directions ("Which way?") and dimensions seen in algebra.

## ALGEBRA OPENS DOORS

- Bob Moses was best known for developing The Algebra Project. Algebra is often described as the language of summary. Bob viewed mastery of algebra as the first step to gaining access to educational and employment opportunities.
- Bob used math literacy as a tool to organize the community. He learned this technique while registering people to vote during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- The Algebra Project helps students develop techniques to remove the mystery from math questions. Bob's teachings help students realize symbols are created by someone, have a meaning, and are on the paper for a reason.
- The Algebra Project helps students realize "the concept of being 'smart' is something that you become, it's not something that you are. If I don't know it now, then I'll know it tomorrow, if I put in the effort."

## REFERENCES

- Moses, R. P., & Cobb, C. E. (2001). *Radical equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project*. Beacon Press
- Moses, R., Maxwell West, M., & Davis, F. E. (2009). Culturally Responsive Mathematics Education in the Algebra Project. In B. Greer, S. Mukhopadhyay, A. B. Powell, & S. Nelson-Barber (Eds.), *Culturally responsive mathematics education* (pp. 239-256). Routledge