

The Civil Rights Movement

Grade 5 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students identify major people and events of the civil rights movement and explain how they contributed to social and legal change. • Standards: D2.His.4.3-5, D2.His.14.3-5

Read each question carefully and write your answer on the line. Think about how people worked together to change unfair laws and practices in the United States.

1. What does the word 'segregation' mean?
2. In 1954, the Supreme Court decided that segregated schools were unconstitutional. What was the name of this important court case?
3. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in nonviolent protest. What does 'nonviolent protest' mean?
4. In 1955, a woman refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. Her arrest led to a year-long bus boycott. Who was this brave woman?
5. What was the goal of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasted from 1955 to 1956?
6. In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a famous speech in Washington, D.C., where he shared his dream of equality. What change did this march help bring about?
7. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to protect African Americans' right to vote. What unfair practices did this law help stop?
8. Young people called the 'Freedom Riders' rode buses through Southern states in 1961 to challenge segregation laws. How did their actions lead to change?
9. In 1957, nine African American students enrolled at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, facing angry crowds. How did the federal government respond to protect these students?
10. Explain how sit-ins at lunch counters in the 1960s helped change segregation laws. Include both what protesters did and what result their actions achieved.

Answer Key — The Civil Rights Movement

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Segregation means keeping people separated by race, such as having separate schools, restaurants, or public facilities for Black people and white people.
2. Brown v. Board of Education
3. Nonviolent protest means working for change through peaceful actions like marches, speeches, and sit-ins without using violence or hurting others.
4. Rosa Parks
5. The goal was to end segregation on city buses so that Black passengers would be treated equally and not be forced to give up their seats.
6. The march helped build support for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination in public places and employment illegal.
7. The law helped stop practices like literacy tests and poll taxes that were used to prevent African Americans from voting.
8. Their actions brought national attention to segregation in interstate travel and led to federal enforcement of desegregation in bus terminals and on buses crossing state lines.
9. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to protect the students and ensure they could attend the previously all-white school, showing that the federal government would enforce desegregation.
10. Protesters peacefully sat at whites-only lunch counters and refused to leave when denied service. Their persistent, nonviolent actions drew media attention and economic pressure on businesses, leading many cities to desegregate their lunch counters and helping build support for the Civil Rights Act.