



Primary History

Civil rights

Name:

Class:

Knowledge organiser

Timeline	
1861–1865	US Civil War divides North and South over ending slavery
1877	Jim Crow laws created
1896	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> : 'separate but equal'
1909	Formation of the NAACP
14th May 1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>
1st Dec 1955	Rosa Parks sparks the Montgomery bus boycott
1964	First Civil Rights Act
7th March 1965	Bloody Sunday march
17th March 1965	Selma to Montgomery march
1968	Second Civil Rights Act
2013	#BlackLivesMatter launches
August 2014	Murder of Michael Brown
May 2020	Murder of George Floyd

Important people	
Dr Martin Luther King Jr	A national leader of the Civil Rights movement
Rosa Parks	Civil rights activist and secretary of the NAACP in Montgomery
John F Kennedy	US President 1961–1963
Lyndon B Johnson	US President 1963–1969
Jimmy Lee Jackson	Black activist killed by state police officer during Selma protests
Reverend James Reeb	Black protester killed after second Selma march
Trayvon Martin	Black teenager killed by neighbourhood watch coordinator
Michael Brown	Black teenager killed by police during his arrest
George Floyd	Black man murdered during an arrest in America

Vocabulary	
boycott	Choosing not to use a company or service in protest against them
civil disobedience	Peacefully refusing to follow laws or commands that are unfair
civil rights	Rights to participate in society (such as voting) without discrimination
discrimination	Being treated differently (negatively), e.g. due to race or gender
federal laws	Laws that apply to all 50 US states
Jim Crow laws	A series of laws in southern states that discriminated against Black people
liberty	Freedom within society without restrictions on behaviour or political views
NAACP	The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
non-violence	Not using force or violence to resolve problems
segregation	Separating different groups of people

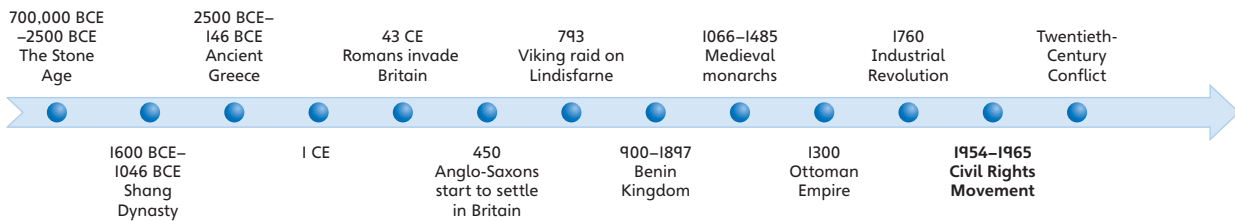
Important legal documents and decisions	
Declaration of Independence (1776)	Established the USA's independence from Great Britain. It states that 'all Men are created equal' and have the right to 'Life, Liberty and ... Happiness'.
The US Constitution (1789)	Laws of the USA, including the 27 'amendments' since 1789, that set out the rights of its citizens.
<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> (1896)	Established the 'separate but equal' principle, allowing segregation.
<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954)	Declared segregation unfair and therefore illegal in public schools.
Civil Rights Act (1964)	Made discrimination in public places and employment illegal and ended segregation of schools and other public services.
Civil Rights Act (1968)	Made discrimination when renting or buying houses illegal.

Learning review

Lesson	Lesson question	You will learn...	Learning review
1	What was the United States of America like in the 1950s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What 'civil rights' are. • What the Age of Consensus was. • Who the middle class of America were. • How equal American society was in the 1950s. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2	Why did Oliver Brown take the Board of Education to the Supreme Court?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the Jim Crow laws were. • What the US Declaration of Independence says about equality. • What segregation was. • Why the NAACP focused on legal challenges throughout their movement. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3	Why didn't Rosa Parks give up her seat on the bus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who Rosa Parks was. • How public transport was segregated in Montgomery. • How Rosa Parks challenged segregation in Montgomery. • What the Montgomery bus boycott was. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4	Why did 3,200 people march from Selma to Montgomery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the defeat of segregation ended discrimination in America. • How the American police treated protesters and activists. • What caused the march from Selma to Montgomery. • How the coverage of the march changed the minds of ordinary Americans. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5	What is the Black Lives Matter movement and why is it needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the state of race relations in the USA is today. • What the causes of the Ferguson protests were. • What the consequences of the Ferguson protests were. • How protest in the USA compares with that in the UK. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6	Assessment: Non-violent protest is not enough. Do you agree?		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Lesson 1

What was the United States of America like in the 1950s?



Civil rights

Today in the UK, everyone has the same rights in law and our many differences are to be celebrated. It doesn't matter whether we are male or female, Black or white, straight or LGBTQ+; we all have the right to be treated equally. Treating someone differently because of their differences (called **discrimination**) is against the law. Discrimination does still sadly happen in the UK today.

Our rights are based on our values:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual **liberty**
- mutual respect and tolerance.

One group of rights makes sure people can live safely and without discrimination. These are **civil rights**. They include social and political rights, such as being able to vote.

The UK has a proud history of civil rights movements, such as that led by Dr Harold Moody for equality for race and ethnicity, and for women to have the vote by the Suffragettes.

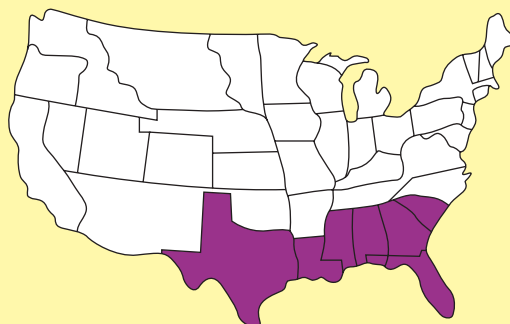


An ongoing issue

This unit looks at the campaign to end discrimination against Black people in the USA between 1954 and 1968.

However, people had been trying to gain equality long

before then. The **American Civil War** (1861–1865) ended slavery in the southern states. These states were the location of many of the events of the Civil Rights movement. Many people are still protesting against discrimination today.

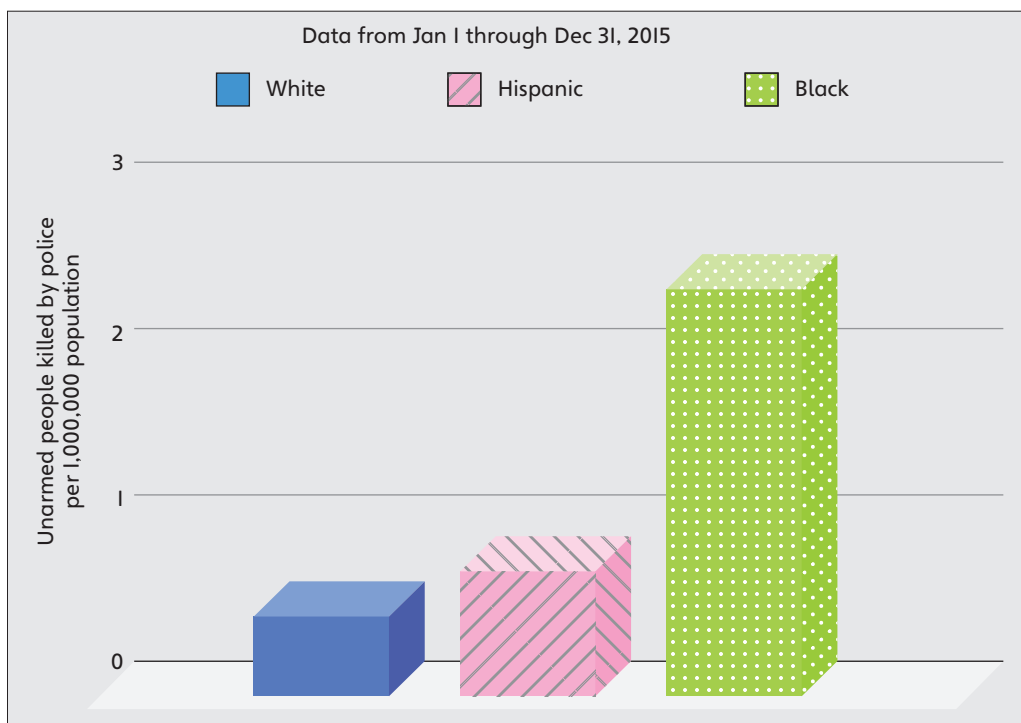


■ Regions defined as part of the Southern States

Map of the USA showing the area known as the Southern States



- I. What does this graph have to do with civil rights? Write your answer.



The Age of Consensus

So, what did the USA look like in the 1950s? Following the Second World War, the USA and USSR (the old name for Russia and nearby countries) became the two superpowers of the world. The USA believed in capitalism: people having the chance to trade, without government controls. The USSR believed in communism: government control of all aspects of society.

The capitalist model is often linked to the idea of the 'American Dream': the idea that anyone can become successful and wealthy so long as they work hard. People in the USA all seemed to agree that capitalism was a better choice than communism. Everyone also seemed to agree that all people should have the chance to be successful. A 'consensus' is a general agreement, which is why this time became known as the Age of Consensus.

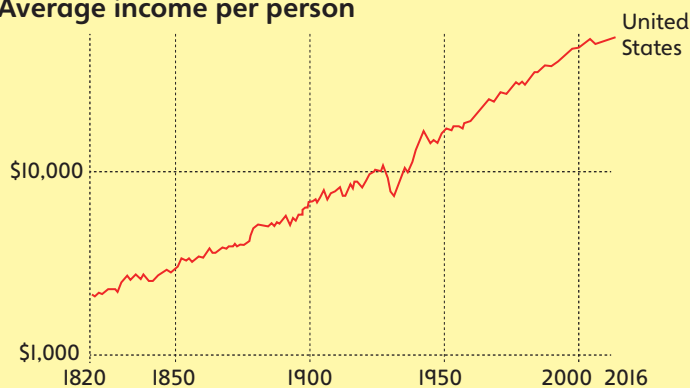


2. What is the American Dream, and why might people like this idea? Write your answer.

The American middle class

For many Americans, the 1950s were a successful period in which lots of ordinary people became wealthier. America sold twice the number of products, goods and services as it had before. America's economy expanded quickly, and lots of people had a much more comfortable life because of it.

Average income per person



Historian Eric Foner reveals that around two-thirds of Americans shared 'a middle-class standard of living' by 1960. Such people had bigger houses, a car or two, and lots of new appliances like televisions and dishwashers. This made their lives easier.

The number of homes in the USA also doubled during the 1950s, which led to the growth of suburbs. These were on the edges of cities.



3. What do you think being 'middle class' meant in the USA in the 1950s? Write your answer.

Some more equal than others

This wealth was not, however, available for all. Across the USA, there was still a policy of **segregation**. This meant that across most of the country Black and white people were separated from one another. They couldn't live in the same places, or go to the same restaurants or schools. Many jobs were not available for Black people.

In the southern states, people were segregated by law. In northern states, segregation was not the law, but it happened anyway. Many suburbs remain almost entirely white.

There have been many names used to describe Black people. Many are offensive, such as 'negro', 'boy' or 'colored'. Some dislike the term 'African-American' as it assumes all Black people descend from Africa. More recently, the term 'people of color' has become widely used, especially by those referring to their own racial background.

However, a range of terms might be used by people from *within* a group, at a particular point in time, to describe themselves. These might vary, over time, between countries and communities. When in doubt, rather than assume, always ask what is preferred.

Life in 1950s America



Source A



Source B



Source C



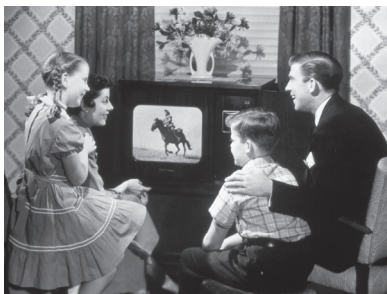
Source D



Source E



Source F



Source G



Source H



Source I



4. Use the images and information from the previous pages to explain what life was like in 1950s America for different people. Write your answer. Justify your answer in your writing.

Some starters are presented below to help you.

Source _____ shows _____

On the other hand, Source _____ shows _____

What the sources do not show _____

Lesson 2

Why did Oliver Brown take the Board of Education to the Supreme Court?

Quiz

1. Why were the 1950s known as the 'Age of Consensus' in the USA? Tick the correct answer.

- a. It was against the law to disagree.
- b. Everyone seemed to agree about values.
- c. Everyone had equal rights.
- d. Everyone was very wealthy.

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2. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

In the 1950s, the USA was communist.

True ☐ False ☐

Discrimination ended in the 1950s.

True ☐ False ☐

The suburbs were racially diverse in the 1950s.

True ☐ False ☐

3. Which of the following is a 'civil' right? Tick the correct answer.

- a. the right to do what you like, regardless of the effects
- b. the right to equal and fair treatment and opportunity
- c. the right to treat people unequally

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4. When did the American Civil War take place? Tick the correct answer.

- a. 1066
- b. 1861–1865
- c. 1681–1685
- d. 1961–1965

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Jim Crow

The USA is a single country made up of 50 states. Although it has a single president and **federal laws** that apply to the whole country, each state can also pass its own laws. In the 1950s, many southern states had '**Jim Crow laws**', which treated Black and white people differently. The laws were named after a character played by a white entertainer, who painted his face black and acted in a stupid and clumsy manner to make fun of Black people.

Jim Crow laws were passed from 1877, following the American Civil War, and lasted nearly 100 years. This meant, for example, that Black people couldn't legally travel in the same carriages as white people on public transport until the 1960s.

“All Men are created equal ...”

When the USA became independent, its leaders wrote their beliefs in the Declaration of Independence. It is still important for Americans today. Perhaps the most famous part of it is:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are [given] ... certain ... Rights ... Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

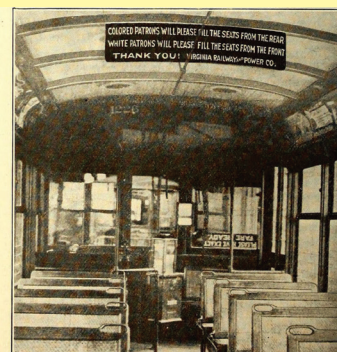
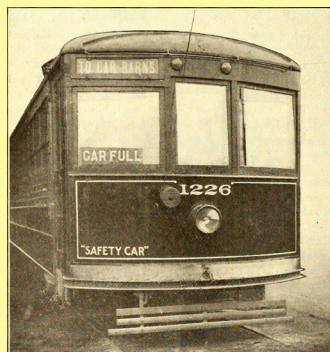
Given that Americans believed so strongly in this declaration, how could Black people be treated so differently? There are three main reasons.

1. Not everyone agreed about all men being equal. Many people – particularly in the South – believed that Black people didn't deserve the same rights or opportunities.
2. During the case of Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, the Supreme Court (highest court in the USA) ruled to allow 'separate but equal' treatment of white and Black people. This meant Black people were separated from white people, though their treatment was rarely 'equal'. This was called segregation.
3. Many of those who wrote the constitution were also major slave holders themselves, so it is likely they meant 'all *white* men are created equal' and assumed that judges would know this did not apply to Black people.

Jim Crow etiquette

While laws treated Black and white people differently, there was also '**Jim Crow etiquette**' (a code of behaviour). This was a list of rules that people enforced. Here are some examples:

- A Black male could not shake hands with a white person.
- Black and white people should not eat together. If they did, white people had to be served first.
- Black people were not allowed to show affection toward one another in public.
- Black people had to be introduced to white people, but white people could approach Black people without introduction.
- White people did not use titles such as Mr or Mrs to address Black people, but Black people had to use them to address white people.
- If a Black person rode in a car driven by a white person, they had to sit in the back.
- White drivers had right-of-way at all junctions.



I. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

- A married Black couple could hold hands as they walked down the road.
- A Black person could call a white shopkeeper by their first name.
- If a white person was driving a car, the Black person had to sit in the back seat.
- If a Black person met a white person, they had to shake their hand and call them "Sir".
- A Black driver always had to let a white driver go first.
- White people would always be served before Black people in a restaurant.

True ☐ False ☐

True ☐ False ☐

True ☐ False ☐

True ☐ False ☐

True ☐ False ☐

True ☐ False ☐

Segregated schools

Segregation (separating racial groups) touched every part of life. For children, this was clearest in their schools. Schools for Black children received much less money than schools for white children.

These pictures show the typical conditions of schools from the 1950s for Black and white children.



The NAACP

In 1909, a group formed that would become the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**, or **NAACP**. Its mission was:

To advocate for equal rights and to eliminate prejudice among US citizens; to advance the rights of people of colour by securing them the vote, increasing the fairness of the legal system, allowing their children to receive an education, equal employment opportunities, and complete equality in society.

The US Constitution sets out the national laws, and guarantees basic rights for all citizens. The fourteenth amendment says that all people have the right to be treated equally by the law.

Many members of the NAACP were lawyers and they challenged many of the Jim Crow laws in the courts, in different states. In the 1950s, the NAACP turned its attention to schools. One case was for Oliver Brown, whose daughter had been denied entry to an all-white school.



2. Imagine that you are the lawyer representing Oliver Brown. What would you say to the judge? Think about how the problem might affect Brown's daughter.

Brown versus the Board of Education

The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, which makes decisions about laws for lots of states. It also decides how the Constitution should be understood. The Supreme Court combined Oliver Brown's case with other similar cases.



After over a year of debates, the judges ruled that segregation in schools went against the Constitution, and was unfair. They said that segregation of white and Black children in public schools was bad for Black children, and that the principle of 'separate but equal' had no place in the USA.

The NAACP had won. The Supreme Court agreed that all children should be educated together. The judgement went beyond education, though. It showed that 'separate but equal' was itself unfair. This was of huge importance: it was the first major victory in the Civil Rights movement.



3. Complete these sentences. Write your answer.

Although the Constitution of the USA states that all citizens should be treated equally by the law, _____

From the 1870s, the USA had a policy of 'separate but equal', because _____

From the 1870s, the USA had a policy of 'separate but equal', so _____

From the 1870s, the USA had a policy of 'separate but equal', but _____

Lesson 3

Why didn't Rosa Parks give up her seat on the bus?



Quiz

1. What does NAACP stand for? Write your answer.

N _____ A _____ for the A _____
of C _____ P _____

2. Who was Jim Crow? Tick the correct answer.

- a. an American lawyer
- b. an American civil rights protester
- c. an American politician
- d. a racist character

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3. Complete the sentences below. Write your answer.

Separate but equal is a principle that said _____

4. What is the name of the highest court in the USA? Write your answer.

The _____ Court

5. Who won the case of *Brown versus the Board of Education*? Tick the correct answer.

- a. The NAACP and Oliver Brown: the court said that his daughter should be allowed to attend the white school.
- b. The Board of Education: the court said that Black and white children could be educated separately.

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The story of Rosa Parks

The year is 1955. It's a winter evening in Montgomery, Alabama, and Rosa Parks has just finished work. She locks up the workshop and walks to the bus stop. She is about to do something that will change the USA forever.

Under Jim Crow laws from 1900, buses in Montgomery were segregated and Black people had to sit at the back. Parks paid her fare to the driver, before leaving the front exit and re-entering the bus through the back door, into the part of the bus labelled 'colored'.



The bus filled up as it made more stops, and soon every seat was taken. When three white passengers boarded, the bus driver told the passengers in the part of the bus labelled 'colored' to get out of their seats and make room. This was common enough: white people got priority under Jim Crow.



I. Finish this sentence. Write your answer.

Although Black people could travel by bus in 1950 in Alabama,

Showdown

The driver moved the sign that said 'coloreds' back a few rows. All the people who had been sitting there left their seats so that the white passengers could sit down. All except Rosa Parks.

When Rosa refused to move, the driver called the police. They arrested Parks. They photographed her. They took her fingerprints and locked her in a cell.



The NAACP President, Edgar Nixon, went to the police station and paid to have Parks released. She was later fined \$10 for her protest.

Parks and Nixon returned home and began to plan to end segregation on buses once and for all. Rosa Parks said that it was the last time she would ride on the bus and be made to feel ashamed.



Rosa's stand

Some people said that Parks refused to give up her seat because she was exhausted after a long day at work. But Parks denied this was the reason. She said she was not tired, or no more tired than usual. She was not old either, at forty-two. She was just tired of giving in.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

Parks's refusal to stand up for a white passenger was an example of **non-violent civil disobedience** to protest against an unjust law. Parks had been an activist for civil rights for many years, and was also the secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP.

Following Parks's arrest, the Women's Political Council printed leaflets and passed them around the Black community across Montgomery. They asked people not to ride the buses. In the Black churches, the message was repeated. Black taxi drivers offered to transport people for ten cents, the price of a bus journey.

Dr Martin Luther King Junior, a priest and fellow member of the Montgomery NAACP, gave a speech telling everyone to continue to **boycott** (avoid) the buses. In response, his house was attacked with firebombs. When his supporters came to his house with weapons to fight back, Martin Luther King Jr told the people to take their weapons home, and reiterated they could not solve the problem with violent retaliation.



Rosa Parks (left) with
Dr Martin Luther King Jr (right)



2. Why was non-violence important in the fight for civil rights? Write your answer.



3. Can non-violence alone bring important changes to society? Why is that? Write your answer.

Outcome

King and other leaders were fined \$500 and sent to jail. People around the country began to take notice, and the boycott gained huge national media attention.

The boycott lasted over a year. Since most of the people who used the buses were Black, the bus companies lost most of their income and started to run out of money. Black leaders challenged the laws in court, and the Supreme Court found segregation on buses unconstitutional.

The city passed a law saying that bus companies had to de-segregate seating on buses, and that Black people could sit wherever they liked. Parks's bravery paid off, and another civil right was won for Black people in the USA.



4. Why was Rosa Parks able to beat the bus company? Make at least three points. Write your answer.

Legacy

Parks continued protesting for many decades, winning civil rights and defending those being treated unjustly by the law. In 1996, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1999, she was given the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honour for a civilian in the USA. On the medal were written the words 'Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement'.



US President Bill Clinton (left) giving Rosa Parks the Presidential Medal of Freedom, September 1996.

Parks died in 2005, aged 92. On the day of her funeral, the city of Montgomery ordered all of the front seats of their buses to be kept empty, with a black ribbon tied on them in honour of her.



5. Summarise the story of Rosa Parks in six sentences. Write your answer.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Unit progress check in

1. When did the American Civil War take place?

Write your answer.

I ____ I-I ____ 5

2. What does NAACP mean? Tick the correct answer.

a. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ☐

b. National Agreement to Advantage Colored People ☐

c. National Association for the Agreement of Colored People ☐

3. What is a boycott? Tick the correct answer.

a. Using force or violence to resolve problems ☐

b. Using something more frequently ☐

c. Protesting by not using something ☐

4. Who did the NAACP help win a legal case against the Board of Education? Tick the correct answer.

a. Oliver Brown ☐

b. Edgar Nixon ☐

c. Rosa Parks ☐

5. Why did Rosa Parks not give up her seat on the bus? Write your answer.

6. In the 1950s, American schools were single-race. What was this called? Write your answer.

S _____

7. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

Jim Crow was an American lawyer.

True ☐

False ☐

The US Constitution guaranteed equal rights.

True ☐

False ☐

Lesson 4

Why did 3,200 people march from Selma to Montgomery?



Quiz

1. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

Rosa Parks didn't give up her seat on the bus because she was tired after a hard day at work.

True ☐ False ☐

Rosa Parks was put in jail for refusing to give up her seat on a bus.

True ☐ False ☐

2. How did Black taxi drivers support the protest? Tick the correct answer.

a. They offered free rides to Black people.

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b. They blocked the roads to the buses.

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c. They only charged as much as a bus fare.

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3. What was the name of the protest of refusing to use the buses? Write your answer.

B _____

4. Rosa Parks's protest was a type of what? Tick the correct answer.

a. violent legal disobedience

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b. non-violent civil disobedience

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c. violent civil obedience

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d. non-violent civil obedience

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5. Name one award that Rosa Parks received in recognition of her civil rights work. Write your answer.

The Civil Rights Act 1964

Thanks to the actions and protests of many men and women, the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964.

It was first proposed by John F. Kennedy, who became President of the USA in 1961. To begin with, Kennedy delayed making any laws about civil rights. There were many politicians who strongly opposed ending segregation, especially in the South. However, there were more and more protests across the country. The police often used brutal violence to attack the protesters.

After many attempts to stop the law, the Civil Rights Act was eventually signed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Public racial discrimination and segregation were now illegal across the USA.



- I. How much had the USA changed through the 1950s and 1960s?
Write your answer.

Continuing discrimination

However, many Black people did not, in reality, gain the rights that were promised to them. An example of this is the right to vote. Although Black people could no longer be banned from voting, officials created 'literacy tests' for them. People had 10 minutes to complete 30 questions, so only 20 seconds per question. They were refused the right to vote if a single answer was wrong.

Given that education in Black communities was so limited, these tests were almost guaranteed to fail people and prevent them from voting.

Jimmy Lee Jackson

In February 1965, a peaceful march was organised in Selma, Alabama. The police met the protesters in the street, and beat them with clubs. Journalists had their cameras smashed by police and were also beaten.

A protester called Jimmy Lee Jackson ran away and hid in a café, but was followed by a state policeman called James Fowler. Jackson was with his mother and grandfather. Fowler began to beat the two elders. When Jackson tried to protect them, Fowler shot him twice. Jackson died in hospital eight days later.

Bloody Sunday

In response to Jackson's murder and the inequality in voting rights, a new march was organised from Selma to Montgomery, the capital of Alabama. On 7th March 1965, around 500 protesters arrived at Edmund Pettus Bridge, which connected Selma and Montgomery.

Waiting on the other side was the County Sheriff, who offered a badge and weapons to any racist who wanted to do harm as temporary police for the march. In front of television cameras, the police beat the protesters with clubs. They fired tear gas into the crowd and attacked the marchers from horseback.

In all, 17 people were beaten so severely they needed hospital treatment. Over 50 people were injured. Amelia Boyton, one of the organisers, was beaten unconscious. It became known as Bloody Sunday.





2. What were the causes of the Selma to Montgomery march? Write your answer.

Turnaround Tuesday

Another march was organised the following Tuesday, led by Martin Luther King Jr. A judge banned protesters from marching in Montgomery, so King turned everyone around at the bridge. He had secretly agreed this with a representative of the President, who promised in return that the police would not attack.



That night, three Black priests were beaten by members of Ku Klux Klan, a racist group. Reverend James Reeb died from his injuries a few days later. President Johnson called Reeb's family personally, to offer sympathy. He called for a new law to protect the voting rights for all.

On 17th March, a federal judge ruled that the protesters should be able to march. 3,200 people left Selma, protected by soldiers ordered by the President. They walked 12 miles a day for five days, sleeping in fields. When they arrived at the state capitol building in Montgomery, there were over 25,000 marchers. It was watched by people across the country and the world.

In August, President Johnson passed the new Voting Rights Act, which banned racist voting practices, including the use of literacy tests. He said:

Even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over. What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and state of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause, too, because it is not just Negroes* but really it is all of us who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.

– President Johnson, 1965

*Note that President Johnson used the term 'Negroes' at a time when it was acceptable to many people in the Black community. Today, it would be offensive to use this term.



3. How did the events at Selma change the minds of Americans?
Write your answer.

Lesson 5

What is the Black Lives Matter movement and why is it needed?



Quiz

1. Which president signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. John F. Kennedy ☐
 - b. Abraham Lincoln ☐
 - c. Barack Obama ☐
 - d. Lyndon B. Johnson ☐
2. Following the death of Jimmy Lee Jackson, where did protesters plan a march? Write your answer.
From S _____ to M _____
3. What test made it hard for Black people to vote in the mid-1960s? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. numeracy ☐
 - b. literacy ☐
 - c. driving ☐
4. When was Bloody Sunday? Write your answer.

5. Who led the 'Turnaround Tuesday' march? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. Rosa Parks ☐
 - b. Jimmy Lee Jackson ☐
 - c. Martin Luther King Jr ☐
 - d. Reverend James Reeb ☐

Black Lives Matter

The Civil Rights movement in America is usually understood to have ended in 1968, when another Civil Rights Act was passed, guaranteeing equal opportunity to housing. However, attitudes did not change overnight, and Black people regularly faced discrimination. This discrimination continues today, and has led to the Black Lives Matter movement.

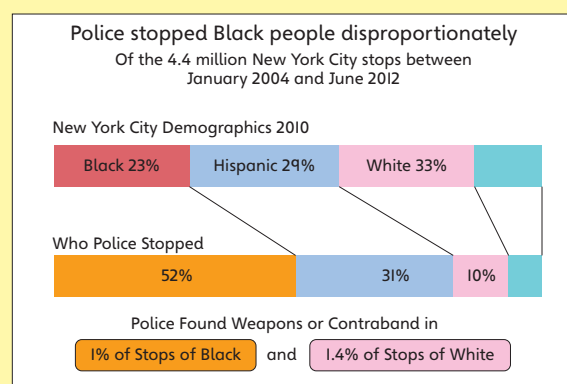
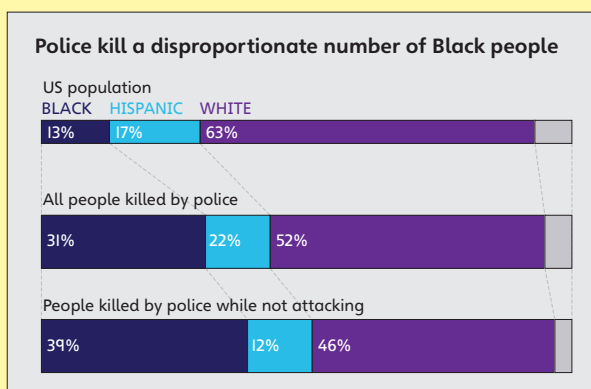


- I. Why do you think that discrimination did not end after the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s? Are things different now? Write your answer.

How did 'Black Lives Matter' begin?

The Black Lives Matter movement started out as a hashtag on social media in 2013, after a killing in Florida. It was responding to US police brutality against Black people, which often left them beaten or killed during arrests.

The following graphs show the percentage of people killed by police, broken down by race.



It is not only that Black people are more likely to be stopped by police, and are more likely to be killed during arrests or while in custody. They are also much more likely to be convicted of crimes.



2. What do the graphs tell us? Write your answer.

Trayvon Martin: the spark

In February 2012 in Florida, Trayvon Martin, a Black high school student, was visiting his father at his home in a gated community in Florida. While walking back from the shops, Martin was approached by George Zimmerman, a neighbourhood watch coordinator.

Nobody knows exactly what happened next, but, shortly after confronting him, Zimmerman shot and killed Martin. When the police arrived, Zimmerman had a bloody nose and claimed that he was attacked and was acting in self-defence. Eye witnesses gave different accounts.

Under a law known as 'stand your ground', people in Florida are allowed to use lethal force if they feel that their life is threatened. Zimmerman was charged with murder, but was cleared in court.



3. Read the following statements. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

In Florida:

a. Black people are not allowed inside gated communities.

True ☐ False ☐

b. People can shoot someone if they think their life is in danger.

True ☐ False ☐

c. People can shoot someone if they think they look suspicious.

True ☐ False ☐

Community organiser Alicia Garza wrote a social media post which was a message of love to Black people. It included the phrase “Our lives Matter. Black Lives Matter”. Two other activists added #BlackLivesMatter and shared the post on social media. By 2018, the hashtag had been used more than 30 million times on Twitter.



The Ferguson protests

The first real-life BLM protest followed the death of a Black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri. Michael Brown, 18, was shot and killed by a police officer in August 2014. The details of what happened are not clear.

Local people protested, demanding a trial. The jury decided that the officer had done nothing wrong. Despite Ferguson having a mostly Black population, most of its politicians and police officers were white. Black people felt they had no voice.

Though the protests began peacefully, the police responded with military equipment and used aggressive tactics against both violent and peaceful protesters.



A state of emergency was called in August and the National Guard was sent in to get the city under control. Unrest continued for months. On the night the officer was cleared of shooting Michael Brown, 25 businesses were burnt down, two police cars were set on fire and 12 cars were burnt. Hundreds of rubber bullets were fired and 80 people were arrested.



4. Why did trust between the community and the police break down in Ferguson? Write your answer.



5. How does the history of civil rights in America link to the Ferguson protests? Write your answer.
-
-
-

Black Lives Matter: the international movement

Black Lives Matter is now a worldwide movement. People organise protests and activities across the world. There is no formal leadership; it is member-led. Their mission is to encourage and strengthen local power, and step in when Black communities are subjected to violence by the state.

Some people, including civil rights leaders, have criticised the movement. They claim the tactics can be violent, which doesn't help the cause. Others argue that the slogan 'Black Lives Matter' is divisive and excludes people. However, the movement continues today.

Black Lives Matter: the UK movement

The UK movement first appeared in London in 2016, with thousands protesting on the fifth anniversary of the murder of Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old Black man, by Metropolitan Police officers.

In May 2020, a Black man called George Floyd was murdered during an arrest in America. This led to support protests across the UK. Protesters named British people who had been killed in similar events, and monuments with links to racism were attacked. This has led to campaigns to show the true history of Britain's involvement in the slave trade.



In Bristol, a statue of Edward Colston was toppled due to his involvement in the slave trade during the late 17th century.

British people have joined the worldwide peaceful protests, with organisations and companies getting involved too. Although there is widespread support of the BLM movement, not all their actions are welcomed by everyone. For example, footballers 'taking the knee' at the start of games have been booed by some who complain that sport and politics shouldn't mix.



Many parts of society, including sport, have a long way to go to remove racism, as well as other forms of discrimination, from their culture, so campaigns look likely to continue.



6. How is Black Lives Matter similar to the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s? How is it different? Write your answer.

One similarity is _____

One difference is _____

This shows that civil rights _____

_____ today.

Lesson 6

Unit check out



Non-violent protest is not enough. Do you agree?

Key words

boycott

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

discrimination

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

Jim Crow laws

Civil Rights Act (1964)

segregation

Civil Rights Act (1968)

non-violence

Martin Luther King Jr

Rosa Parks

Title: Non-violent protest is not enough. Do you agree?

Introduction

- What are civil rights?
- Why are they important?
- What is discrimination?

Paragraph 1

- How equal was 1950s America?
- What did the NAACP do?
- How did *Brown v. Board of Education* change things?

Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did Rosa Parks challenge segregation in Montgomery?• What was the Montgomery bus boycott?• How did these protests change things?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How different was America in the 1960s?• What caused the march from Selma to Montgomery?• What happened as a result?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Extension paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What sparked the BLM movement and why is it needed?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How important was non-violent protest?• How important was changing laws?• Are they linked?• Is non-violent protest enough on its own?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Civil rights

[illegible]

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Civil rights

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