Teacher's Guide

The Road to Civil Rights

Time Needed: One class period

Materials Needed: Student worksheets, scissors, tape or glue

Copy Instructions:

Poster Activity *(half class set; single-sided)*

Transparency Page

Student Reading and Activity Pages *(class set; double-sided)*

Learning Objectives Students will be able to:

- Describe the processes that led to the expansion of rights for African Americans.
- Identify the role of the three branches of government in establishing and protecting rights.
- Describe methods that civil rights activists used to protest segregation.
- Identify individuals and groups that influenced the Civil Rights Movement.
- Explain the significance of civil rights Supreme Court cases: *Brown v. Board of Education, Loving v. Virginia, Bailey v. Patterson, Heart of Atlanta v. US.*
- Explain the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1968, the 24th Amendment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act.

STEP BY STEP

- ❑ **DISTRIBUTE** the anticipation activity and have students classify the terms into the four categories. Ask the students to put a star next to terms they recognize and circle the terms that are unfamiliar. See how many terms can be collectively defined.
- ❑ **SHOW** the *"What If…"* overhead/slide and ask for reactions from the students. (These historical scenarios will be covered throughout the lesson.)
- ❑ **DISTRIBUTE** the reading pages and read through the first page. (You may want to point out that King, Malcolm X, Evers were all assassinated.)
- ❑ **REVIEW** the roles of the three branches of government before moving on to the second reading page. Then read through with your students. Ask them to select which of the laws or court decisions they think was the most important and share why.
- ❑ **DISTRIBUTE** the *Activity Sheet 1* and explain the directions. (You can cut the cards into sets of 6 prior to the lesson, or give the half sheets to the students to cut for themselves.)
- ❑ **ASSIGN** students to select the correct problem/solution set and attach it to the poster sheet.
- ❑ **REVIEW** correct answers in student pairs or by seating groups.
- ❑ **DISTRIBUTE** remaining activity pages and assign for completion as a class or for individual work. Diary entries are fictional accounts of the following historical events: 7. Montgomery Bus Boycott, 8. Greensboro Sit-In, 9. Selma-Montgomery March, 10. Freedom Rides
- ❑ **REVIEW** student responses to the activity pages as a class.
- ❑ **EXTENSION** page has a map activity and more detailed information about the various organizations that developed during the Civil Rights Movement. Students will need access to a basic map of the United States to complete.

This lesson plan is part of the *Civil Rights* series by iCivics, Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing civic education. For more resources, please visit www.icivics.org/teachers, where you can access the state standards aligned to this lesson plan. Provide feedback to feedback@icivics.org.

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The Road to Civil Rights

Name:

The Civil Rights Movement has a long history with many different leaders, participants, places, and events. Categorize the terms from the list in the middle into the correct box. You will learn about all of these items in this lesson!

This image is from the Selma to Montgomery March for the Right to Vote in 1965. Do you recognize anyone?

LEADERS

EVENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr.

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

The March on Washington

Loving v. Virginia

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Montgomery Bus Boycott

Malcolm X

Little Rock Nine

Greensboro Lunch Sit-in

CORE (Congress on Racial Equality)

Rosa Parks

March from Selma to Montgomery

Brown v. Board of Education

24th Amendment

SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)

SCLA (Southern Christian Leadership Conference)

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Medgar Evers

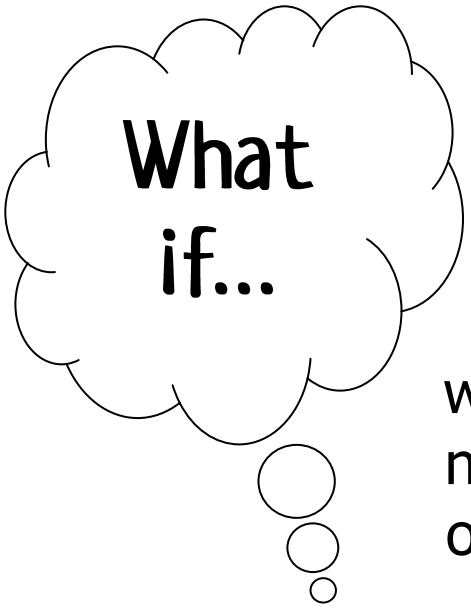
LAWS & THE COURTS

GROUPS

There is a law that says you can only marry someone who is the same race as you.

Your state decided that only children of the same race can attend school together.

All of the city buses, trains and subway cars had separate areas for different races.



The house you want to buy is in a neighborhood that only allows people of a certain race to move in.

You are turned away from a hotel while you are on vacation because they don't serve people of your race.

You go to vote and are given a really hard test to take. If you don't pass the test, the poll worker says you cannot vote.

The Road to Civil Rights

Name:

Isn't That Discrimination?

Discrimination happens when one group is treated differently from another. *Segregation* happens when one group is kept separate from another group. Both of these happen when there is *prejudice* or intolerance. You will often hear these words when people talk about the way African Americans have been treated in our country.

Separate drinking fountains for 'Colored' and 'White' people.

A nonviolent sit-in at a 'whites only' lunch counter in Greensboro, NC.

We Shall Overcome

The Jim Crow laws that discriminated against African Americans might still exist today if it wasn't for the hard work of people in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. There had always been resistance to the discrimination that blacks faced, but during that time people joined together, organized, and protested more than ever before. New laws were passed, other laws were declared unconstitutional, and things started to change in people's everyday lives.

The People Who Changed Things: Civil Rights Movers and Shakers

The civil rights movement was made up of many well-known people as well as political groups and ordinary citizens. They all stood up to intimidation, violence and threat of arrest. Even kids got involved!

Martin Luther King, Jr. helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (*SCLC*). He delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington.

Malcolm X promoted black independence, self-defense, and human rights. He often disagreed with the non-violent methods of King.

Medgar Evers was a civil rights activist who investigated cases for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples (*NAACP*) and helped *James Meredith* integrate the University of Mississippi.

The *Little Rock Nine* integrated their all white high school in 1957. A third grader named *Linda Brown* helped change the laws about school segregation.

Two of the Little Rock Nine leaving school with a troop escort.

Change Starts with Forcing People to Pay Attention

Activists used a variety of strategies to end racial discrimination. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., many activists chose to use peaceful or *nonviolent* methods to call attention to the problem and pressure the government to change. Other people, like Malcolm X, thought civil rights would have to be gained through any means necessary—even violence. Both approaches influenced the civil rights movement by calling attention to the discrimination African Americans faced on a daily basis.

Marches involved large groups of protestors taking to the streets with signs, banners, songs, and chants.

Sit-ins were a way to *integrate* (bring the races together) a business or public area. African Americans would sit at 'whites only' areas and wait to be served.

Boycotts called for consumers to avoid a product or service that discriminated against African Americans.

Court cases challenged unfair laws.

The Road to Civil Rights

Name:

Change in the White House

President John Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Johnson

It took the work of all three branches to protect the civil rights of African Americans and other minority groups in the United States. As the leader of the nation and the executive branch, the president holds an important role in bringing about change.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy asked for legislation "giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities which are open to the public—hotels, restaurants, theaters, retail stores, and similar establishments," as well as "greater protection for the right to vote." He was assassinated that same year, but the new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, helped push the bill through Congress. Finally, the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* became law. Both men used their power and influence to enforce major political and social change.

Change in the Laws

Other changes came about when new laws were passed through Congress:

- The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, and national origin. This includes discrimination in the workplace, public places, schools, and in voting.
- The **24th Amendment** ended the practice of poll taxes in 1964. States and local governments could no longer charge citizens for the right to vote.
- The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** prohibits any restriction on the right to vote. This included poll tests and voter intimidation. It followed through on the promise of the 15th Amendment.

Change in the Courts

Many changes came when the Jim Crow laws that limited the freedoms and rights of African Americans were challenged in the courts:

- **Brown v. Board of Education** In 1954, the Supreme Court said racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.
- **Bailey v. Patterson** In 1962, the Supreme Court decided that it was unconstitutional for transportation facilities like bus and train stations to be racially segregated.
- **Loving v. Virginia** In 1967, the Supreme Court decided that any state law that prohibits interracial marriage is unconstitutional.

Thurgood Marshall represented the Brown family in *Brown V. Board of Education* in 1954. He became the first African American Justice on the Supreme Court in 1967.

Pro-Segregation protest, 1959

Did Anyone Oppose the Civil Rights Movement?

YES! There were many different groups that fought the changes brought on by the civil rights movement. In politics, a group called the *Dixiecrats* worked to keep racial segregation and Jim Crow laws in the South. Many southern towns had *white citizen councils* that also fought to keep segregation by creating all white schools and pushing black civil rights activists out of jobs. The most well-known group was the *Ku Klux Klan*, which met secretly and was responsible for acts of violence and terrorism against African Americans and white people who supported the fight for civil rights. These groups, and others, made even speaking out a very dangerous activity.

The Road to Civil Rights

Name: _____

What's the Message? Marches, protests, sit-ins and boycotts all have one thing in common: signs! Match the problem/solution cards with the correct protest sign.

What's the problem?

WE MARCH FOR

INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

NOW!

What was the solution?

What's the problem?

WE DEMAND VOTING RIGHTS!

No More 'pay to vote'!

What was the solution?

What's the problem?

=

HOUSING

NOW!

What was the solution?

The Road to Civil Rights

Name: _____

Vocabulary. Match the word with its definition.

___ 1. activist	A) when one group is treated differently than another group
___ 2. segregation	B) intolerance of a person or group based on their race
___ 3. nonviolent	C) people who protest to call attention to a cause, like civil rights
___ 4. discrimination	D) peaceful
___ 5. integration	E) keeping things or people separate
___ 6. prejudice	F) bringing separate groups together

Name That Protest! Take a look at the diary entries of these young civil rights activists and decide which type of protest they participated in. Check the action the each story describes.

7. *I walk to my summer job with my brother six days a week. Last summer, we rode the bus and it only took us 15 minutes. Now we walk 5 miles each way! It takes over an hour, but it is important for us all to send a message. The bus company needs to know that we do not support segregated seating and discrimination.*

- ❑ March
- ❑ Voter Registration Drive
- ❑ Boycott
- ❑ Sit-In

8. It was scary, but we sat down at the lunch counter and waited to be served. It wasn't fair that this diner refused to serve blacks, and we decided to sit at that counter until they did serve us. We didn't make a scene, didn't yell, didn't break stuff. We just sat there and waited. Angry people came up and hit us, yelled in our faces, and even dumped a milkshake on my friend's head! But we stayed. After three straight days, the diner finally decided to serve us!

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7. My feet hurt! We are on day three of our four day walk from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. We travel about 12 miles a day and sleep in the fields along side the road. It isn't easy, but we sing songs and meet other people as we walk. Our goal is to get the state and federal politicians to help blacks vote in the South. We hope that having over 25,000 in our group will get their attention and make change!

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Alphabet Soup. The civil rights movement was made up of many different groups and organizations, and most were known by their acronyms. Fill in the blanks using the word bank to discover what these letters mean!

Organizations
Student
Christian
Racial
Advancement

11. SNCC: _____ Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

12. CORE: Congress on _____ Equality

13. SCLC: Southern _____ Leadership Conference

14. NAACP: National Association for the _____ of Colored People

15. COFO: Council of Federated _____ (combination of the groups above)

The Road to Civil Rights

Name: _____

Who Am I? There were many people involved with the Civil Rights Movement. Read each hint and choose the correct person from the list.

Thurgood Marshall

Rosa Parks

Malcolm X

Lyndon B. Johnson

Linda Brown

I started the Montgomery Bus Boycott when I refused to give up my seat to a white man who got on the bus. I was the secretary of the local NAACP. Who Am I?

_____

I argued before the Supreme Court for the Brown family in *Brown v. Board of Education.* Years later I became the first African American Supreme Court justice. Who Am I?

_____

I disagreed with the way Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for civil rights. I promoted black pride and was a member of Islam. Who Am I?

_____

As the president of the United States, I signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law. Who Am I?

_____

My parents fought for me to attend the all white public school near my house. Who Am I?

_____

Problems and Solutions. Remember those 'What if' statements earlier in the lesson? They weren't made up! The Supreme Court made many decisions that changed the way laws treated African Americans. Connect the story, problem, and how the Court solved it. The first one is done for you.

The Story	The Problem	Supreme Court Solution
Mildred (African American) and Richard Loving (white) get married in Washington, DC and move to Virginia where they are charged with a crime.	The owner of the Heart of Atlanta hotel refused to rent rooms to blacks, even though the Civil Rights Act of 1964 said he had to.	1962– *Bailey v. Patterson*: The Court banned racial segregation of interstate (from one state to another) and intrastate (within one state) transportation facilities.
A group of African Americans try to check in to a hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.	State and local laws said that all of the city buses, trains, and subway cars must be divided into areas for different races.	1967- *Loving v. Virginia:* The Court decides that state laws banning interracial marriage are unconstitutional.
African Americans were forced to sit and stand in different areas of the public transportation system.	Virginia law that says you can only marry someone who is the same race as you.	1964- *Heart of Atlanta v. United States:* The Court said that the federal government could enforce desegregation laws on businesses that served people from other states.

Cut along the lines.

Prior to 1956, 17 states required all schools to be segregated by race. State and local laws punished teachers in integrated schools with fines and even jail time!	Many African Americans were turned away from registering to vote and from polling places. They had to pay poll taxes and take impossible tests. They faced threats of violence, false arrest, and beatings by local police and groups like the KKK.	The Fair Housing Act was passed as a part of the 1968 Civil Rights Act. It prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing (loans) of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marriage status and disability.
In 1964, the 24th Amendment outlawed poll taxes. A year later, the Voting Rights Act banned discrimination at voting booths nationwide.	African Americans were discriminated against when they tried to buy or rent a home. They also had trouble getting loans to purchase big ticket items like houses.	In Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court ruled that the idea of 'separate but equal' was not constitutional. Therefore, laws calling for racial segregation of schools were unconstitutional.

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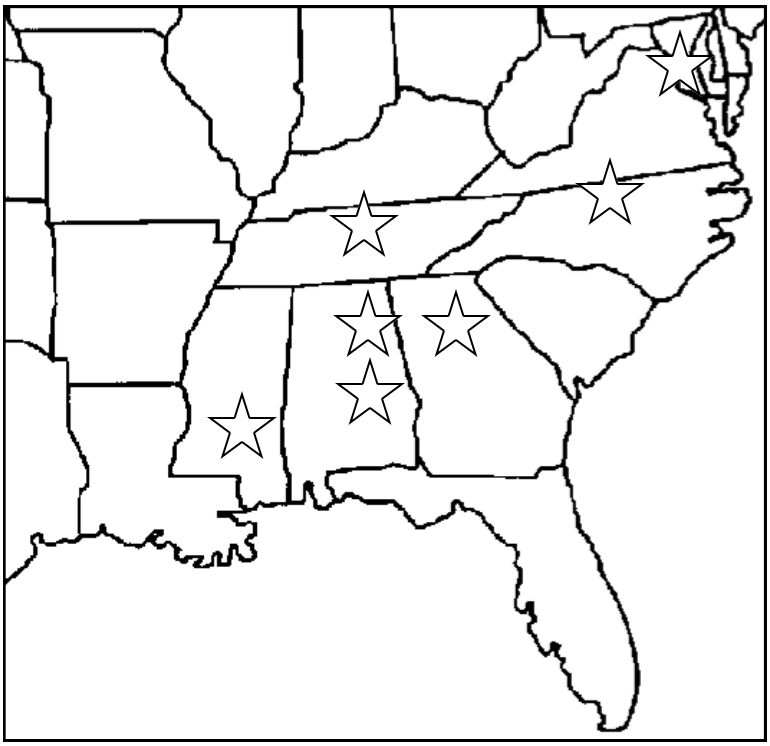
The Geography of Civil Rights

Use a map to help you find these important locations of the civil rights movement. Write the correct number in each star on the map.



① Montgomery, Alabama

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks is arrested after refusing to give up her seat to whites on a public bus. A local Baptist minister, Martin Luther King, Jr., leads a year-long bus boycott that results in a U.S. Supreme Court case requiring bus desegregation.

② Atlanta, Georgia

February, 1957

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) developed out of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It was founded by 60 black ministers, including Martin Luther King, Jr. It is still run out of its original offices in Atlanta.

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February 1, 1960

Four African American college students sit and order coffee at a Woolworth's whites-only lunch counter. Non-violent sit-ins spread to over 100 Southern cities as young people confront segregation and demand change. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) grows out of the sit-in movement.

④ Jackson, Mississippi

May 1961

The Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) organizes Freedom Rides across the deep South. Members integrate interstate buses and bus stops from D.C. to Mississippi. The participants meet with violent mobs, and many CORE members are jailed along the way.

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August 28, 1963

More than 250,000 people gather on the Mall during the peaceful March on Washington. This event was organized by the NAACP and other civil rights groups. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

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Six hundred marchers calling for voting rights are stopped and assaulted by police officers and others on the outskirts of Selma. Martin Luther King, Jr. leads a second march and seeks court protection for an even larger march. The demonstrators win, and up to 25,000 march from Selma to Montgomery, sleeping in fields as they make the four-day trek.

⑦ Memphis, Tennessee

April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King, Jr. is shot and killed while standing on the balcony of his hotel. King was in town to support black sanitation workers who were on strike in the city.

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TEACHER GUIDE

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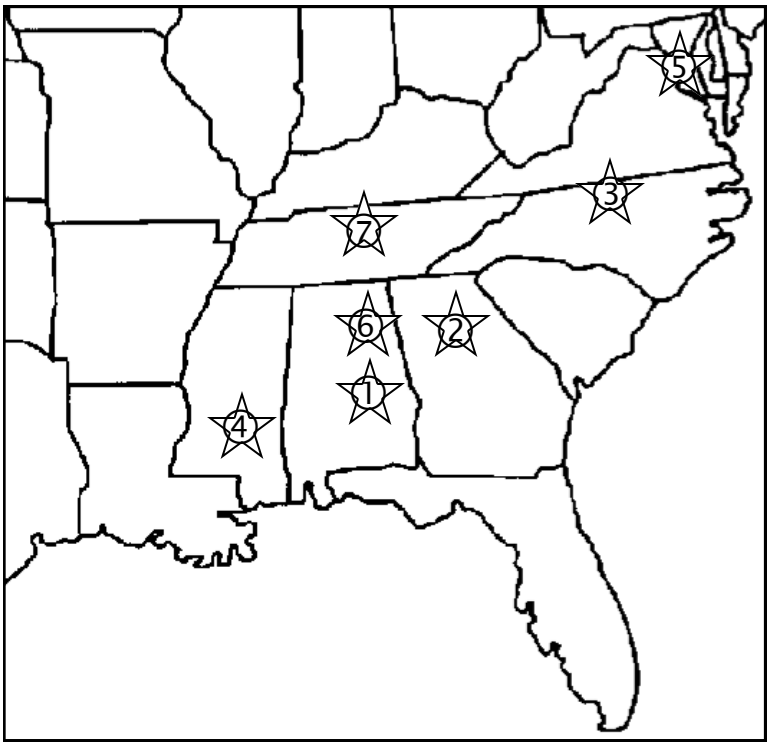

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