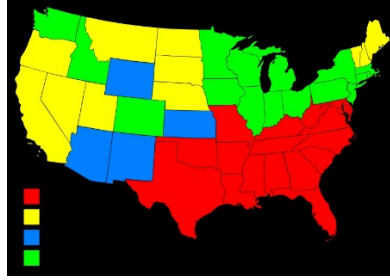


KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

The Civil Rights Movement in the USA

Summary of the Civil Rights Movement



Slavery was abolished in the USA in 1865 but did black Americans really have equality?

Racism in America (and in other countries) is a legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade of the 18th century as many were displaced from their country of birth and taken to the Americas where they remained and had families.

Black Americans were deemed to be lower-class citizens than white people and were not allowed to use the same public facilities. These included schools, parks, public transport, toilets etc.

They were often victimized and treated badly simply for having a different skin colour.

A new movement evolved which held non-violent protests to campaign for change and equality: The Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Martin Luther King Jr.

Timeline of key events	
1865	Abolishment of slavery in the USA.
1 st December 1955	Rosa Parks refuses to move seat on the bus to make way for a white person.
21 st December 1956	Buses were integrated although bus stops remained segregated.
28 th August 1963	Martin Luther King held The March on Washington and said his famous " <i>I have a dream</i> " speech.
1964	An Act was agreed to give black people equal rights.
1965	Black people were allowed to vote.
1968	Martin Luther King is assassinated aged 39.

Extra information

- Laws in many southern American states made the segregation of black and white people a legal requirement. Facilities provided for black Americans were inferior to those for white people.
- The Jim Crow's Laws only existed in southern states but the northern states of America were still full of inequality (but were not a legal requirement).

Key people

- **Claudette Colvin** - nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, 15 year-old Claudette was arrested for the same reason.
- **Rosa Parks** - refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus. Her defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- **Martin Luther King Jr** - was elected as president of the MIA and was inspired by Rosa Park's action to seek non-violent resistance to segregation. He emerged as a strong leader in the Civil Rights Movement.

Key vocabulary

- **Racism** the belief that some races are better than others and the (racist) actions that can happen from those beliefs.
- **Segregation** - the separation of black and white people in transport, education, housing and facilities.
- **Discrimination** - treating one group more unfairly than another.
- **Boycott** - refusing to use a service or buy goods in the hope that something will change for the good.
- **Montgomery Bus Boycott** - a boycott that lasted over 1 year whereby people refused to ride buses in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. 75% of these were black Africans.
- **Civil rights** - every person, regardless of their gender, skin colour, religion, nationality, age, disability or religion should not be discriminated against.
- **Jim Crow's Law** - a set of laws that made segregation a legal requirement in the southern states of the USA.
- **Integration** - the opposite of segregation; combining different groups of people fairly.
- **MIA** - Montgomery Improvement Association.