

### What do I need to know?

- ✓ What was segregation and how did it affect the lives of Black Americans?
- ✓ How much progress was made in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and the reasons for this progress?
- ✓ What were the main reasons for progress in the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

### KEY VOCABULARY



<b>Segregation</b>	Separating people from each other (based on race or skin colour)
<b>Discrimination</b>	Unfair treatment of people based on race, skin colour or gender.
<b>White supremacy</b>	The belief that white people are a superior race and should therefore dominate society.
<b>Lynching</b>	A term used when a mob kill (often by hanging) someone accused of a crime such as murder or rape.

### HOW DID SEGREGATION AFFECT THE LIVES OF BLACK AMERICANS?

Slavery was abolished in America in 1865. However, freedom did not lead to equality. In fact, most black people continued to face racism, discrimination and even violence. In the 1950s, in the South, segregation laws (called the **Jim Crow Laws**) said all public facilities had to have separate sections for white people and black people. Examples include:



- ✓ Black children could not go to the nearest school if it was a 'white' school.
- ✓ Black Americans had to sit in the 'coloured' section on buses and could be arrested if they sat in the 'white' section.
- ✓ Cinemas, restaurants, theatres and churches were either just for white or black Americans or had separate seating.

Black Americans were also prevented from voting.

- ✓ Most states had a literacy test to register to vote – harder tests were given to black people.
- ✓ White employers threatened to sack black employees who registered to vote.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO EMMETT TILL?

- ✓ In August 1955, Emmett Till, a 14 year old black boy from Chicago, visited relatives in Mississippi where he was accused of harassing a white woman, Carolyn Bryant, in her store – she claimed that he had taken hold of her waist, asked her for a date and whistled at her.
- ✓ Bryant's husband and brother-in-law abducted Till, beat and shot him and threw his body into a local river.
- ✓ The two men were arrested and put on trial. The all-white jury found the two white defendants not guilty. They later sold their story (admitting the murder) to a magazine.
- ✓ Till's mother had an open viewing of the body leading to huge publicity. Many Black and white Americans were shocked by what had happened. Many became involved in the civil rights movement as a result.



### WHO WERE THE KU KLUX KLAN?

- ✓ The Ku Klux Klan was formed in 1866 to prevent ex-slaves gaining the vote and any form of equality. It operated in the Southern states.
- ✓ It was a secret organisation and because many of their actions were illegal, they always hid their identities by wearing hoods.
- ✓ They terrorised Black Americans by intimidation and extreme violence including bombings and lynching.
- ✓ Members of the Klan included politicians, judges, and policemen. This made it very difficult to get suspected Klan members arrested or convicted of their crimes.



How much progress did the civil rights movement make in the 1950s?

KEY VOCABULARY



<b>State government</b>	Controls what happens in an individual state and can make some laws for that state.	<b>Separate but equal</b>	This stated that segregation was legal as long as facilities for both races were of an equal standard.
<b>Federal government</b>	The national government led by the president. It makes laws for the whole country.	<b>NAACP</b>	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. They gained civil rights by taking cases to court

HOW IMPORTANT WAS BROWN V. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION?

A black girl, Linda Brown, had to walk 21 blocks to her black school when there was a white school only 7 blocks away. Her father went to the NAACP for help. They took the case to the Supreme Court. On May 17, 1954, it was ruled that schools had to desegregate.



This was a success because:

- ✓ 'Separate but equal' had been abolished.
- ✓ By 1957, 723 school districts were desegregated in the border states with little violence.

However, its success was limited because:

- ✓ No deadline was set for desegregation so as late as 1962 schools in Mississippi and Alabama were still segregated.
- ✓ White Citizens Councils were formed to make sure schools stayed segregated and membership of the KKK rose.

WHY WAS THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT SUCCESSFUL?

In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in the white section on a bus. A one-day bus boycott was organised as a protest. It was so successful that the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), led by Martin Luther King, decided to continue the boycott for another 12 months.



This was successful because:

- ✓ The MIA organised carpools so black people could get to work.
- ✓ The boycotters carried on despite threats, loss of jobs, bombings (including King's house) and arrests.
- ✓ The determination of the boycotters impressed the NAACP who took the case (Browder v. Gayle) for desegregation of buses to the Supreme Court.
- ✓ The actions of white people were shown in the media gaining sympathy for the boycotters.

HOW IMPORTANT WERE EVENTS AT LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL?

In 1957, 9 black students were admitted to Little Rock High School. The Governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, did not want desegregation to happen so used the National Guard to stop the black students from getting into the school. White mobs also harassed the students. Eventually, President Eisenhower took control of the National Guard and used them to protect the black students for the rest of the school year. However, they had to endure threats and taunts from white teachers and students.



This was a success because:

- ✓ Due to the publicity many Americans saw the racial hatred that existed in the South which forced the president to act.
- ✓ It showed that states would be overruled by the Federal government when necessary.



However, its success was limited because:

- ✓ Only one of the Little Rock 9 actually graduated.
- ✓ Faubus closed Little Rock High School to prevent further desegregation.

1954  
The Brown v. Topeka Case

1955  
The murder of Emmett Till

1955  
The Montgomery Bus Boycott

1957  
Events at Little Rock High School

## What was the main reason for progress in the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

### HOW IMPORTANT WERE THE GREENSBORO SIT-INS, 1960?

Four black students sat at a lunch counter in a department store. The staff refused to serve them as the lunch counter was segregated. The students refused to leave. The next day 25 students arrived and sat at the counter in shifts. The local newspaper reported the story and the sit-ins spread, with 50,000 people taking part, to other lunch counters and were soon national news.

This was important because:

- ✓ Protesters faced racial abuse and had food and drink poured over them but did not react violently. This brought sympathy for the protesters.
- ✓ Black protestors were joined by white people showing increased support for civil rights.
- ✓ Lunch counters and other diners were desegregated as a result of the sit-ins.



### KEY VOCABULARY



#### Peaceful protest

Protests that do not use violence or retaliate to violence

### HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE BIRMINGHAM CAMPAIGN 1963?

This campaign, led by Martin Luther King, aimed to end segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. It included sit-ins, marches and a boycott of shops. 6,000 children marched in the 'Children's Crusade'. Police sprayed them with water hoses, hit them with batons, and threaten them with police dogs. 900 were arrested.

This was important because:

- ✓ Events brought worldwide publicity that made the USA look bad.
- ✓ President Kennedy intervened and put pressure on shops and businesses in Birmingham to desegregate.
- ✓ The events convinced President Kennedy to introduce a new civil rights bill.
- ✓ Over 300 cities in the South agreed to at least some desegregation as a result of protests that spread because of the Birmingham Campaign.



### HOW IMPORTANT WERE THE FREEDOM RIDES, 1961?

Two buses left Washington DC to travel South to test if the desegregation of buses and station facilities was happening. The first bus was firebombed by the KKK in Anniston, Alabama. Riders on the second bus were beaten up by KKK members in Birmingham. There were over 60 Freedom Rides throughout the summer. Most were met with violence and over 900 Riders were arrested.

This was important because:

- ✓ The violent reaction of white people led to a great deal of national publicity and the refusal of the Riders to retaliate impressed many.
- ✓ The Freedom Rides did not result in any law changing but President Kennedy said he would enforce desegregation if states did not obey.
- ✓ The Southern states began to desegregate bus facilities.



### HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE WASHINGTON MARCH, 1963?

This was a march for jobs and freedom. Over 400,000 people, including 40,000 white people, protested peacefully together. Martin Luther King gave his famous 'I have a dream' speech. President Kennedy, decided to meet with the leaders to congratulate them on their success.

This was important because:

- ✓ The media coverage attracted a worldwide audience so millions of people heard King's speech.
- ✓ It showed the huge support that existed for civil rights.
- ✓ Kennedy committed himself to get a new Civil Rights Act passed. This became the 1964 Civil Rights Act.



1960  
Greensboro Sit-ins

1961  
Freedom Rides

Spring 1963  
Birmingham  
Campaign

August 1963  
Washington March

## What was the main reason for progress in the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

### HOW IMPORTANT WAS FREEDOM SUMMER, 1964?

The aim was to increase the number of black voters in Mississippi. It involved white students from the North coming to teach in Freedom Schools for black children while others taught black people how to pass the voter registration tests. The KKK burned churches and homes and beat up volunteers. Many black people lost their jobs for trying to register to vote or allowing their children to go to a freedom school. Three civil rights workers were murdered by the KKK. These became known as the Mississippi Murders.

This was important because:

- ✓ The Mississippi Murders became a massive scandal and gained publicity for black Americans' lack of voting rights.

BUT

- ✓ Around 17,000 black people tried to register to vote; only 1,600 succeeded.



### KEY VOCABULARY

**Black Nationalism**

Black people being proud of their African heritage and wanting to form a separate black nation.

### HOW IMPORTANT WAS MALCOLM X?

Malcolm X rejected peaceful protest, especially its stress on not retaliating to white violence. He argued that King's peaceful approach had not resulted in enough change for African Americans. He also believed in Black Nationalism.

He was important because:

- ✓ He spoke on television highlighting the problems in the ghettos that were faced by many young black people.
- ✓ He was a role model and had great influence on young black Americans.

BUT

- ✓ His message that black people should fight back led to fear amongst many white Americans.



### HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY, 1965?

King decided to campaign in Selma, hoping to put pressure on President Johnson to pass a new law to help black Americans to vote. On 'Bloody Sunday', 600 protesters set out to march from Selma to Montgomery but state troopers stopped them at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, firing tear gas and attacking protesters with clubs and electric cattle prods.

This was important because:

- ✓ The violence of the state troopers made the USA look bad and damaged its reputation abroad.
- ✓ It persuaded Johnson to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- ✓ President Johnson intervened: he got federal troops to escort a bigger march, led by King, from Selma to Montgomery.



### HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT?

The Black Panther Party is an example of a Black Power group. They aimed to achieve equality "by any means necessary", encouraging black people to defend themselves. They were often involved in shootouts with police. They were angry about the poor conditions in the ghettos so they patrolled the streets in black communities to keep them safe, ran breakfast clubs for poor black children, organised medical clinics for poor black people, and ran courses on black history.

They were important because:

- ✓ The Black Panthers did help to improve conditions in the ghettos.

BUT

- ✓ It's use of violence alienated moderate whites and blacks. It gave a bad name to the civil rights movement.



1964  
Freedom Summer

March 1965  
March from Selma to  
Montgomery

1968  
King's campaign in  
the North

### **HOW IMPORTANT WAS KING'S CAMPAIGN IN THE NORTH, 1968?**

Between 1964 and 1968, there were 329 major race riots in northern cities. The riots were caused by police brutality and poor living conditions. King wanted to prove that non-violent action would work in the North so joined a campaign for fairer housing in Chicago.

But many black politicians did not support the campaign and King struggled to connect with ghetto gangs who didn't agree with his methods. King did reach a deal on fairer housing with the Mayor of Chicago but the Mayor ignored the agreement and nothing changed.