

A portion of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge [take away] the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws

1. Which amendment is being described?
 2. According to the amendment, how can a person become a U.S. citizen?
 3. What three protections does the amendment provide:
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 4. What is the purpose of this amendment?
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Plessy V. Ferguson

On June 7, 1892, Homer Plessy was arrested in Louisiana for sitting in the "Whites Only" section of a railcar. In this planned protest, Plessy, who was 1/8th black and "could pass for white" identified himself as a black man. This orchestrated event was planned by the "Committee of Citizens," a group of well educated African-Americans who wanted to test Louisiana's segregation laws.

The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where the court ruled in favor of Louisiana, based on the "separate but equal" doctrine. The court determined that under the Constitution (14th and 15th Amendments) blacks had political rights, but social rights were not required. According to the court, as long as facilities were equal for both races they could be separate.

1. Which Supreme Court Case is being described?
 2. Why was Plessy arrested?
 - How did this violate the protections of the 14th Amendment?
 3. Why was Plessy's arrest planned?
 4. What the Supreme Court decide in the case?
 - What was their argument?
 - What doctrine did the Court uphold (support)?
 - How did this doctrine impact people's daily lives?
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