

Civil Rights Movement - Webquest

Directions: Complete the following questions using the link listed below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement>



1. In general, what is meant by civil rights?
2. According to the website, why is the history of black Americans and their strife for civil rights significant to the history of the United States?

3. Explain the significance of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision.
4. According to the website, even though the government had passed laws in favor of desegregation, why was "black activism" still necessary?
5. Who was Rosa Parks, and what did she do?
6. What occurred as a result of Rosa Parks being arrested?
7. How is the response of the community to the Rosa Parks incident a fight for civil rights?
8. According to the website, what/who inspired Martin Luther King Jr.?

9. What event, related to the Civil Rights Movement, occurred in February of 1960? Explain its significance.

10. Explain the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

11. What events brought about the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

12. Black residents in the Black Belt (Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi), many of whom had been involved in civil rights efforts since the 1940s and 1950s, emphasized _____ rather than _____ as a goal.

13. Why do you suppose the residents of these states pushed for voter registration as such an important issue?

14. What is "Bloody Sunday"? Explain its significance.

15. What was the significance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in relation to the Civil Rights Movement?

16. Briefly explain the views of Malcolm X and how they differed from that of Martin Luther King Jr.

17. Explain the beliefs of the Black Panther Party in regards to the Civil Rights Movement.

18. According to the website, what led to a decline in protest activity after the 1960's?

19. What is the lasting legacy of the Civil Rights movement on America?

20. In what ways did the Civil Rights movement not only advance the rights of African Americans but other minority groups as well?

21. To what extent is racial discrimination still an issue that faces the United States (and the world) to this day?

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1. In general, what is meant by civil rights?

Any rights related to equality or making society more equal, especially based on rights associated with minority groups that have been historically marginalized in society. For example, women or African Americans have had struggles associated with civil rights.

2. According to the website, why is the history of black Americans and their strife for civil rights significant to the history of the United States?

Because it was symbolic of the fight for rights for all people. As well, such movements have not only secured citizenship rights for blacks but have also redefined prevailing conceptions of the nature of civil rights and the role of government in protecting these rights.

3. Explain the significance of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision.

The *Brown* decision demonstrated that the litigation strategy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) could undermine the legal foundations of southern segregationist practices. It involved ending segregation in education.

4. According to the website, even though the government had passed laws in favor of desegregation, why was "black activism" still necessary?

Even after the Supreme Court declared that public school segregation was unconstitutional, black activism was necessary to compel the federal government to implement the decision and extend its principles to all areas of public life rather than simply in schools.

5. Who was Rosa Parks, and what did she do?

Rosa Parks of Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her seat to a white bus rider, thereby defying a southern custom that required blacks to give seats toward the front of buses to whites.

6. What occurred as a result of Rosa Parks being arrested?

When she was jailed, a black community boycott of the city's buses began. The boycott lasted more than a year, demonstrating the unity and determination of black residents and inspiring blacks elsewhere.

7. How is the response of the community to the Rosa Parks incident a fight for civil rights?

Rosa Parks' actions and the resulting bus boycott were protesting the segregation in society and the lack of rights for African Americans in terms of treatment on public transportation such as buses.

8. According to the website, what/who inspired Martin Luther King Jr.?

He understood the larger significance of the boycott and quickly realized that the nonviolent tactics used by the Indian nationalist Mahatma Gandhi could be used by southern blacks. "I had come to see early that the Christian doctrine of love operating through the Gandhian method of nonviolence was one of the most potent weapons available to the Negro in his struggle for freedom," he explained.

9. What event, related to the Civil Rights Movement, occurred in February of 1960? Explain its significance.

The Greensboro Sit-in occurred. Four freshmen at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College began a wave of student sit-ins designed to end segregation at southern lunch counters. These protests spread rapidly throughout the South.

10. Explain the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This legislation outlawed segregation in public facilities and racial discrimination in employment and education. In addition to blacks, women and other victims of discrimination benefited from the act.

11. What events brought about the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

The Birmingham Campaign and the March on Washington

12. Black residents in the Black Belt (Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi), many of whom had been involved in civil rights efforts since the 1940s and 1950s, emphasized voter registration rather than desegregation as a goal.

13. Why do you suppose the residents of these states pushed for voter registration as such an important issue?

In order to gain rights and push desegregation many of the people began to realize that the power of the African American vote was necessary to bring about real change and that by promoting more voting rights the Civil Rights Movement would naturally progress.

14. What is "Bloody Sunday"? Explain its significance.

On March 7 a planned march from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery ended almost before it began at Pettus Bridge on the outskirts of Selma, when mounted police using tear gas and wielding clubs attacked the protesters. News accounts of "Bloody Sunday" brought hundreds of civil rights sympathizers to Selma. Many demonstrators were determined to mobilize another march, and activists challenged King to defy a court order forbidding such marches. Dramatically increased the resolve of the Civil Rights Activists.

15. What was the significance of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in relation to the Civil Rights Movement?

It greatly increased the number of southern blacks able to register to vote. But it was also the last major racial protest of the 1960s to receive substantial white support.

16. Briefly explain the views of Malcolm X and how they differed from that of Martin Luther King Jr.

Malcolm X, the activist and outspoken public voice of the Black Muslim faith, challenged the mainstream civil rights movement and the nonviolent pursuit of integration championed by Martin Luther King Jr. He urged followers to defend themselves against white aggression "by any means necessary."

17. Explain the beliefs of the Black Panther Party in regards to the Civil Rights Movement.

Militant organizations, such as the Black Panther party supported a strategy of "picking up the gun" which reflected the sentiments of many inner-city blacks. They proposed a much more violent and aggressive form of protest.

18. According to the website, what led to a decline in protest activity after the 1960's?

Severe government repression, the assassinations of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, and the intense infighting within the black militant community caused a decline in protest activity after the 1960s.

19. What is the lasting legacy of the Civil Rights movement on America?

Overt forms of racial discrimination and government-supported segregation of public facilities came to an end, although de facto, as opposed to de jure, segregation persisted in northern as well as southern public school systems and in other areas of American society. In the South, anti-black violence declined. Black candidates were elected to political offices in communities where blacks had once been barred from voting, and many of the leaders or organizations that came into existence during the 1950s and 1960s remained active in southern politics. Southern colleges and universities that once excluded blacks began to recruit them.

20. In what ways did the Civil Rights movement not only advance the rights of African Americans but other minority groups as well?

The modern African-American civil rights movement, like similar movements earlier, had transformed American democracy. It also served as a model for other group advancement and group pride efforts involving women, students, Chicanos, gays and lesbians, the elderly, and many others.

21. To what extent is racial discrimination still an issue that faces the United States (and the world) to this day?

Despite the civil rights gains of the 1960s, however, racial discrimination and repression remained a significant factor in American life. Even after President Johnson declared a war on poverty and King initiated a Poor People's Campaign in 1968, the distribution of the nation's wealth and income moved toward greater inequality during the 1970s and 1980s. Civil rights advocates acknowledged that desegregation had not brought significant improvements in the lives of poor blacks, but they were divided over the future direction of black advancement efforts.