

**OVERVIEW OF CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY
AND
THE IMPACT OF BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In 1896, in the case of _____, the United States Supreme Court ruled that races could be separated in public transportation. This was interpreted in many states to also extend to the field of public education. According to this court ruling, races could be separated as long as the facilities available to both were similar. This became known as the doctrine of _____. This doctrine led to the widespread separation of races, which is termed _____. Southern state governments passed laws, known as _____, which separated African Americans from other Americans in all public facilities, including schools.

For many years, African Americans desired their rights as American citizens and an organization, known as the _____, was formed to better their lives. The leaders felt that the policy of separation of the races was a violation of their right of due process under the law which was guaranteed by the _____. In 1954, this organization brought before the United States Supreme Court a challenge to the court's ruling of 1896. In a series of five cases, the most important of which is the case of _____, this organization's lawyers argued that the 1896 ruling was a violation of African American rights guaranteed in the Constitution and that therefore the 1896 ruling was _____. One of the lawyers arguing this case was _____, who later became the first African American justice on the United States Supreme Court. In an unanimous decision, the Supreme Court overturned the court's ruling of 1896 and ordered that all public schools should be open to all races with "deliberate speed". This policy of not separating people by race is called _____. This decision of the Supreme Court was welcomed by many Americans; however, particularly in the southern states, some white Americans and their state governments fought the decision by establishing private schools, closing some public schools and attempting to terrorize African American children who tried to enroll in public schools. Probably the most famous of these incidents occurred when a small number of African American children attempted to attend a public high school in Arkansas' capital city. A large mob of protesters and the Governor of Arkansas blocked their path into the school. The federal government had to send troops to escort these students into the school and guarantee their safety. This brave group of students is known as the _____. Because of resistance, the integration of public schools and colleges was a slow process and, in 1969, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision which stated that all public schools must be integrated immediately.

The 1954 ruling in Brown v. Board of Education had enormous impact in the United States. African Americans and many white Americans felt that it was not fair to separate the races in any public area. On December 1, 1955, _____ was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Her action led to the _____

in which many African Americans refused to ride any of the public busses in that city. At great sacrifice to these protesters, this action lasted for over a year until the public bus company in that city allowed the integration of the busses. This protest was successful in part because of the leadership of a dedicated minister, _____. He encouraged African Americans to use non-violent protest in their attempts to change unfair laws. Two methods of non-violent protest are the _____ (a refusal to purchase goods or services from a certain business) or the _____ (a refusal to move from a certain place until an unfair practice has been changed).

For many years, most restaurants and lunch counters in Southern states had been segregated. On February 1, 1960, a small group of African American students sat down at a “whites only” lunch counter in a Woolworth’s in North Carolina and refused to move when they were not served. They left when the store closed that evening but returned the next day and repeated their actions from the day before. This group, known as the _____, was eventually joined by both supporters who also engaged in the sit-in and others who came to try to remove the protesters from their seats. In the next two months, this type of protest was occurring in fifty-seven cities in the Southern states. Because these stores were hurt economically by the sit-ins, lunch counters and most restaurants eventually did away with eating areas restricted by race.

Public transportation, such as railroads and trains, had long been segregated in many areas of the South. In the summer of 1961, groups of students, known as _____, rode busses through the South in an attempt to stop this unfair practice. Many of them faced beatings, arrest and some were killed. Their actions led to the integration of transportation systems and waiting rooms. In the summer of 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. led thousands of supporters to our nation’s capital in an attempt to draw the attention of all Americans to the injustices that African Americans were suffering. This event became known as the _____.

Since the end of Reconstruction, most African Americans had been denied the right to vote in Southern states because of _____, _____ and _____. In 1965, Congress passed the _____ which removed any laws that were designed to prevent minorities from voting. In 1966, the _____ was added to the United States Constitution to stop the use of poll taxes in any election. In 1964, Congress passed the _____ making discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin illegal in public facilities and in employment.

Question to Think About-

Was the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision important?