

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Directions: The sentences and paragraphs which follow describe the civil rights movement of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. As you read through the information, fill in the missing words, names, and terms. Two or more letters in each answer have been given as clues.



- (1) During World War II, many African Americans served with h _ n _ r in the armed forces of the United States.
- (2) After the war ended in 1945, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) attracted new members and increased financial support from both w _ i _ _ s and blacks.
- (3) Many talented young l _ w _ y _ r _ became associated with the NAACP during these years.
- (4) Several times in the 1940s and 1950s, the _ u _ r _ _ e Court made decisions that resulted in major victories for African Americans.
- (5) In cases often brought by lawyers for the NAACP, the federal courts began to strike down laws that permitted racial discrimination in h o _ s _ _ g and recreation.
- (6) In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in the case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka that segregation in public _ _ h _ _ l _ was unconstitutional.
- (7) The Brown decision overturned an 1896 Supreme Court ruling (Plessy v. Ferguson) that had allowed “separate but _ q _ _ l” facilities for blacks and whites.
- (8) Rosa Parks, a civil rights activist in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested when she disobeyed a city law requiring blacks to give up their _ e a _ _ on buses to whites.
- (9) For more than a year after Rosa Parks’ arrest, the blacks in Montgomery refused to ride the buses. The lost revenue prompted city officials to abolish the bus law. The boycott was the first organized mass p r _ _ _ _ t by blacks in Southern history.
- (10) The bus boycott attracted national attention for its leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., a Montgomery Baptist _ _ n _ _ _ e _.
- (11) Communities in the South were often slow to integrate their public schools. In 1957, Governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas used the Arkansas National Guard to prevent black students from entering Little Rock Central High School. President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by sending federal t _ _ _ _ s to enforce a court order to integrate the school.
- (12) Martin Luther King, Jr., and other black Southern clergymen formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to coordinate the work of various _ i v _ _ rights groups.
- (13) King urged African Americans to use p e _ _ _ f _ _ means to achieve their goals.
- (14) In 1960, a group of black and white _ o _ _ _ g _ students organized the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to help in the civil rights movement.

- (15) Young people from different civil rights groups joined together in staging sit-ins, boycotts, m a r _ _ _ _, and freedom rides (bus rides to test the enforcement of desegregation in interstate transportation).
- (16) During the 1960s, the combined efforts of the civil rights groups ended discrimination in many public places, including restaurants, hotels, theaters, and c _ m _ t _ r _ _ _.
- (17) In 1963, King, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, James L. Farmer of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Whitney M. Young, Jr., of the Urban League organized the March on _ a _ _ i _ _ t _ n.
- (18) A stirring speech by King highlighted the March on Washington. He told the crowd that he had a dream that one day all Americans would enjoy _ q _ _ ! _ _ _ and justice.
- (19) After the "I Have a Dream" speech, President John F. Kennedy proposed strong laws to protect the civil rights of all U.S. _ _ t _ z _ _ _.
- (20) Congress passed Kennedy's proposed laws in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act prohibited racial _ _ s _ r _ _ _ n _ t _ _ _ in public places and called for equal opportunity in employment and education.
- (21) For leading nonviolent demonstrations, King was awarded the 1964 Nobel P _ _ _ e Prize.
- (22) In the South, many elected officials and police officers refused to enforce c _ _ _ t rulings and federal laws that gave blacks equality.
- (23) Many blacks and whites joined King in Selma, Alabama, to protest unjust restrictions that prevented blacks from voting. King led about 30,000 demonstrators, guarded by federal troops, from _ _ ! _ a to the State Capitol in Montgomery.
- (24) The events in Selma helped persuade Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Among other things, the act outlawed the practice of charging someone a poll tax before they could vote. The poll tax had long prevented _ o _ r blacks from voting.
- (25) Passage of the Voting Rights Act enabled thousands of Southern blacks to vote for the first time. It led to a huge increase in the number of _ ! a _ _ elected officials.
- (26) Blacks began to fill important positions in the federal government in Washington, D.C. In 1966, Robert C. Weaver became the first black c _ b _ _ _ member, serving as secretary of housing and urban development.
- (27) In 1967, Thurgood Marshall became the _ i _ s _ black justice on the Supreme Court.
- (28) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm of New York became the first black _ o _ a _ to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- (29) In the mid-1900s, racial barriers in professional sports and the arts began to fall. Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers was the first black player in modern major league _ a _ _ _ a _ _.
- (30) Boston Celtics basketball star Bill Russell became the first black head _ o _ c _ in major league professional sports.

- (31) Marian Anderson was the first black to sing a leading role with the Metropolitan O p e r a in New York City.
- (32) Sidney Poitier won the Academy Award in 1963 for best a c t t i n in Lilies of the Field.
- (33) By the mid-1960s, the civil rights movement had ended many of the legal injustices long suffered by African Americans. But many blacks continued to be discriminated against in housing, law enforcement, and o u s.
- (34) Unrest among ghetto blacks erupted into a series of riots in numerous cities across the nation. In the black community of Watts in L a s A n g e s, 34 people died and almost 900 were injured.
- (35) On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. James Earl Ray, a white man, was convicted of the crime. Race i n t e broke out in more than 100 black communities.
- (36) Following King's murder, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. This law prohibited racial discrimination in the sale and rental of most of the housing in the n e t e.
- (37) Dramatic gains for African Americans were made during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Nevertheless, some black militants urged blacks to live apart from whites. In some cases, they approved the use of i n c e to preserve their rights. Groups promoting these ideas included the Black Muslims and Black Panthers.

Civil Rights Movement

Multiple-Choice

- (1) ____ In the years after World War II, court cases that opposed racial discrimination were brought by the: (a) FBI (b) CIA (c) NAACP
- (2) ____ The Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* that: (a) separate but equal educational facilities were permissible (b) integration had to end at once in U.S. schools (c) segregation in public schools was unconstitutional
- (3) ____ The arrest of Rosa Parks resulted in a successful bus boycott in: (a) Montgomery, Alabama (b) Atlanta, Georgia (c) Jackson, Mississippi
- (4) ____ Martin Luther King, Jr., believed that African Americans could best achieve their goals through: (a) random acts of violence (b) worker strikes (c) peaceful protests
- (5) ____ To test the enforcement of desegregation in interstate transportation, civil rights activists staged: (a) freedom rides (b) boycotts (c) sit-ins

Completion

- (6) During the March on Washington, _____ said he had a dream that all Americans would someday enjoy equality and justice.
- (7) The Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned racial _____ in public places.
- (8) King and about 30,000 demonstrators marched from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama to protest restrictions preventing blacks from _____.
- (9) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm became the first _____ woman to serve in the House of Representatives.
- (10) The Black Muslims and _____ were militant groups that sometimes approved violent protest.

Matching

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| (11) ____ Orval Faubus | (a) was the first black justice on the Supreme Court |
| (12) ____ Thurgood Marshall | (b) first black head coach in major league professional sports |
| (13) ____ Jackie Robinson | (c) Arkansas governor who tried to block the integration of Little Rock Central High School |
| (14) ____ Bill Russell | (d) became the first black player in modern major league baseball |
| (15) ____ Sidney Poitier | (e) won the 1963 Academy Award for best actor |

True-False

- (16) _____ Roy Wilkins, James L. Farmer, and Whitney M. Young, Jr., were civil rights leaders.
- (17) _____ Many Southern whites did not readily support the ideas and goals of the civil rights movement.
- (18) _____ The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed the requirement that a person pay a poll tax before voting.
- (19) _____ Race riots broke out in many cities across the United States despite dramatic gains for African Americans.
- (20) _____ Both blacks and whites were active participants in the civil rights movement.