

## CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

### The beginning

- WWII minority veterans wanted Justice between the races at home
- In 1947 Branch Rickey integrates major league baseball when he hires Jackie Robinson to play for the Dodgers
- In 1948 President Truman ordered the armed forces to stop segregating blacks into separate units
- During the Korean War soldiers fought in mixed units
- The work by African Americans for equality is known as the Civil Rights Movement.

### Segregation in Schools

- In Plessy v. Ferguson the Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal facilities were constitutional
- In the Supreme Court case of Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka Thurgood Marshall argued for school desegregation
- The Supreme Court ruled to end school segregation
- In 1957, 9 African American students tried to enter Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas
- Governor Orval Faubus had the National Guard keep the students out
- President Eisenhower sent the U.S. Army to protect the students

### Montgomery Bus Boycott

- Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger
- Rosa and the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) decided to fight the case in court
- The Women's Political Council organized a boycott of buses for a week
- Martin Luther King, Jr. urged African Americans to continue the boycott
- King was chosen to lead the Montgomery Improvement Association
- At the age of 26 he was becoming the nation's most powerful voice for civil rights.
- White leaders were outraged by the boycott

- King's home was bombed by white leaders
- He insisted his followers use civil disobedience or NON-VIOLENT protests
- The boycott lasted for more than a year
- In 1956 the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional

### The Struggle Continues

- In 1957 African American religious leaders formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Segregation continued in bus stations, restrooms, and other public places.
- The NAACP brought cases of discrimination before the courts
- In Greensboro, N.C., African American college students held a "sit-in" at a "white's only" lunch counter.
- The waitress refused to serve them and they refused to leave
- Police came and the students were forcibly removed
- The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organized "Freedom Rides"
- People rode buses from town to town trying to integrate bus terminals

### March on Washington

- In 1963, nearly 250,000 people take part in the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C.
- Wanted Congress to pass laws to end discrimination and help the poor
- Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech.

### Civil Rights Act

- President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- This act outlaws segregation, advances voting opportunities, bans job discrimination and sped up school desegregation.

## Voting Rights

- In 1965, King leads a march for Voting rights
- People walk from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama
- State troopers set upon the marchers with tear gas, clubs, and whips
- Congress passes the Voting Rights Act
- This law removes literacy tests and allowed Federal officials to register African American voters.
- The 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed that outlawed poll taxes

## Differing Views

- Discrimination remained a problem
- Black leaders disagreed over how to bring about change
- The Black Muslims believed that African Americans need to be separated from white society
- Malcolm X changed his thinking and looked for a society in which there could exist a honest white-black brotherhood
- In 1965 Malcolm X was assassinated
- The "Black Power" movement wanted to reduce the role of whites in the Civil Rights Movement
- Radical groups like the Black Panthers urged African Americans to Arm themselves and Fight for their rights
- In large cities young blacks were angry about poverty, the lack of Jobs, and discrimination.
- Cities exploded into violence
- In August 1964 the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles exploded
- The riot was sparked by police brutality
- Over 4,000 people were arrested, 34 were killed, and over 1,000 injured

## Memphis

- Dr. King remained committed to non-violence.
- In April 1968 he went to Memphis to support black sanitation workers who were on strike
- A white gunman, James Earl Ray shot and killed him. Riots occurred.

## Some Progress is Made

- In the 1970s African Americans were elected to public office
- Many cities had black mayors by 1979
- Edward Brooke became the 1<sup>st</sup> black Senator since Reconstruction
- Thurgood Marshall was appointed to the Supreme Court
- Affirmative action programs were set up to hire minorities, women, and others who faced discrimination

## The Women's Rights Movement

- Betty Friedan criticized women's limited role in society
- The National Organization for Women (NOW) began
- Wanted laws passed to give women greater equality
- Worked for equal rights in jobs, Pay, and education
- Supported the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) which would forbid any form of discrimination based on gender. The ERA Failed to be passed

## Mexican Americans

- Mexican Americans in the U.S. faced discrimination
- Organizations started to challenge discrimination
- César Chávez founded the United Farm Workers
- UFW organized a nationwide boycott of California grapes
- Grape growers signed a contract with the UFW giving workers better wages and working conditions.
- The Voting Rights act of 1965 was passed giving bilingual elections.
- Bilingual education laws were also passed.

## Native Americans

- The National Congress of American Indians were successful in regaining land, water, and mineral rights
- The American Indian Movement (AIM) were more militant.
- AIM members occupied Wounded Knee.
- The goal was to draw attention to past injustices against Native Americans