
Summary

C I V I L R I G H T S

Civil Rights- Sometimes referred to as “The Second Reconstruction Era” the civil rights movement in the United States included movements towards equality in America by African Americans and other disadvantaged groups. This fight for rights lasted from 1954 to 1968. The era was marked by a political realignment in 1965, which made way for the Democratic Solid South to be dissolved and for African Americans to make huge strides back towards the rights they were promised during Reconstruction. During the original Reconstruction Era, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were passed. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery within the United States. The 14th amendment secured the rights of ALL United States Citizens, eventually being modified to even include Women, Children, and other minorities aside from African Americans. The 15th Amendment was written to protect the citizen’s rights to vote regardless of previous servitude, race, or color. Aside from the 13th Amendment, these amendments were ignored by the South and racism and inequality continued until the Civil Rights movement in the 1960’s, nearly one hundred years later. One way the South ignored the amendments that protected African Americans was by passing the Jim Crow Laws through city and state legislation. These laws allowed white supremacists to control the south and to abuse the African Americans. Groups such as the Klu Klux Klan were the original disturbers of the first African Civil Rights movements, and these racist whites eventually scared African Americans into submission. As time went on though, pressure built up around the issue of racism in America, eventually exploding in different court cases and civil rights’ movements. In 1896, in the United States Supreme Court Case, Plessy V Ferguson, the Court Justices voted for the “Separate but Equal” doctrines. They promoted the idea that African Americans could have equality, but could not share facilities or education with white people. They believed that African Americans could have their guaranteed rights by being separate from caucasians. They built separate schools for the blacks, separate movie theaters, separate neighborhoods, and even separate water fountains. In the following years, up until 1920, no strides were made for equality. Finally, in 1920 women gained their right to vote due to the 19th amendment. However, African Americans were still under the power of the separate but equal doctrine. This twisted idea of equality lasted for nearly 60 years, until 1954. In the Supreme Court Case, Brown V Board of Education the tables were turned. In a unanimous decision (9-0) the court voted that separate but equal doctrines were unconstitutional and therefore outlawed the doctrine of Plessy V Ferguson. At this point in time, many African American leaders rose up and fought to carry out the ideals mentioned in the Brown V Board of Education court decision. These leaders knew that this new chance for equality would not take hold without a fight for it. One such leader, and the most prominent of the group, was Martin Luther King Jr. He was well received and loved by his followers due to his promotion of civil rights through non-violent and fundamentally christian ideals. After Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give her seat up to a caucasian man, Martin Luther King Jr lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lead to non-segregated buses. He also lead non-violent marches in Alabama and eventually even one on Washington where he delivered the renowned “I Have A Dream” Speech that moved entire crowds. He was even awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, highly praised for his non-violent protesting. Other leaders also rose up. Malcolm X is one example, he also served as a fighter for African American rights and in the end of his life also promoted equality. Both Malcolm X and King were assassinated, the latter in 1968 and Malcolm X in 1965. Although African Americans were at the fore-front of civil rights movements: Women, Indians, Latin-Americans, and other minorities also were fighting for their rights. Russell Means advocated rights for indians, rising to a prominent position in 1968. Cesar Chavez fought for Mexican Americans and other underpaid farm workers in a nonviolent manner, which garnered him support and momentum. Chavez, Means, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr, all caused lasting changes, each bringing their groups strides closer to equality. The indians gained their right to vote over a long period of fighting for suffrage. In 1948, an Arizona Supreme Court Decision struck down a clause of the state constitution that stopped indians from voting. Slowly, the Indian’s right to vote moved throughout the United States. Eventually, in 1962 in New Mexico, every state had granted indians the right to vote. Following this action, The 24th amendment was proposed by Congress to the states, and was soon ratified. This amendment outlawed any form of poll taxes within the United States. By 1964 and due to the struggle of thousands, a landmark decision was reached within the United States: The Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Soon after, the Voting Act of 1965 was passed. This Act prohibited ANY discrimination in voting.

Possible Essay Questions

The below section includes possible essay questions and answer ideas. Make sure you understand the below section just has ideas you still have to give examples and/or explain with a full response.

1. **What bills and amendments have worked to change civil rights throughout American history?** + 13th Amendment + 14th Amendment + 15th Amendment + 19th Amendment + 24th Amendment + The Civil Rights Act of 1964 + The Voting Act of 1965 +
2. **Describe and explain the outcome and significance of the 3 major court cases** + Plessy V Ferguson - "Separate But Equal" Doctrine (Lasted more than half a century) - Meant African Americans could become equal to whites, by being separate from them. Separate schools, separate neighborhoods, separate water fountains. Promoted extreme segregation and racism. + Roe V Wade - Allowed Woman to have control over whether or not they could have an abortion. + Brown v Board of Education - Outlawed the "Separate but Equal Doctrine." First real case to challenge Plessy vs. Ferguson.
3. **Describe and explain key civil rights advocates and their contributions** + Martin Luther King Jr - Fought for African American Rights, Lead their fight towards equal freedom, promoted peaceful civil disobedience. + Malcolm X - Advocate for African American Rights, helped lead them + Rosa Parks - Her actions, refusing to give a seat up to a white, lead to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. + Russell Means - Fought for Native American Rights + Cesar Chavez - Fought for the rights of Mexicans as well as farm laborers. + Eleanor Roosevelt - Fought for Women's Rights, First Lady for multiple terms + Ida Wells - Women's Right Activist

Key Terms

Civil Rights- the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

Roe V Wade- A court case that ruled that women had the ability to exercise their freedom in choosing to get an abortion.

Plessy V Ferguson- A court case that ended with a unanimous vote for the "separate but equal" doctrine.

Brown V Board of Education- A court case that over-ruled the Plessy V Ferguson doctrine that "separate was equal."

Civil Rights Act of 1964- Outlawed ANY discrimination anywhere within the United States.

Voting Act of 1965- A voting law that prohibited discrimination in ANY way in the American voting system.

Montgomery Bus Boycott- An event lead by Martin Luther King, which included the refusal by many African Americans to ride the Montgomery Buses. This event took place due to Rosa Parks refusal to give a seat to a white male.

Jim Crow Laws- Laws that were extremely racist in attitude, and legitimized the racism of anti-African-American States.

Suffrage- The right to vote

Martin Luther King Jr - Fought for African American Rights, Lead their fight towards equal freedom

Malcolm X - Advocate for African American Rights, helped lead them

Rosa Parks - Her actions, refusing to give a seat up to a white, lead to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Russell Means - Fought for Native American Rights

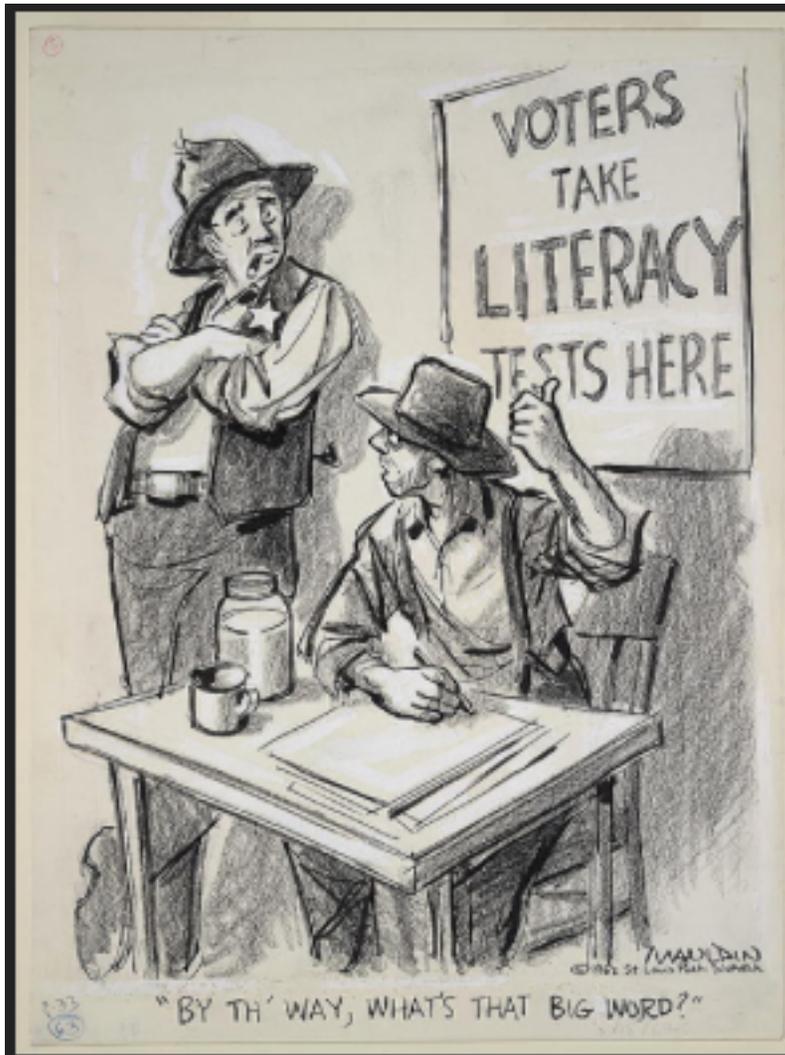
Cesar Chavez - Fought for the rights of Mexicans as well as farm laborers.

Eleanor Roosevelt - Fought for Women's Rights, First Lady for multiple terms

Ida Wells - Women's Right Activist

24th Amendment- Outlawed any form of poll taxes, which made voting affordable and possible for minorities.

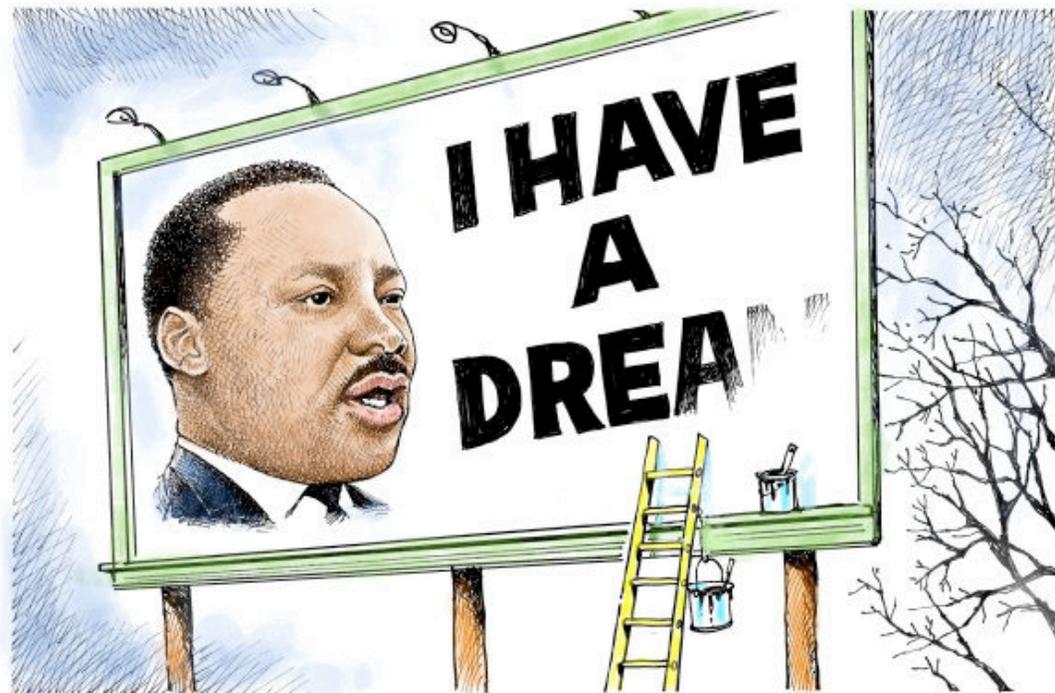
Standard H.B.6 a-g Analyze the development of voting and civil rights for all groups in the US following Reconstruction, to include: (a) Intent and impact of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments of the constitution; (b) Segregation as enforced by Jim Crow laws following Reconstruction; (c) Key court cases (e.g., Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Roe v. Wade); (d) Roles and methods of civil rights advocates (e.g., Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Russell Means, Cesar Chavez); (e) The passage and effect of the voting rights legislation on minorities (e.g., 19th Amendment, role of AZ Supreme Court decision on Native Americans and their disenfranchisement under AZ constitution and subsequent changes made in other state constitutions regarding their voting rights [NM 1962], 1964 Civil Rights Act, Voting Act of 1965, 24th Amendment); (f) Impact and reaction to the efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; (g) Rise of Black Power, Brown Power, American Indian Movement, United Farm Workers



This political cartoon references the Montgomery Bus Boycott which was inspired by Rosa Parks. The boycott included the refusal by many African Americans to ride the Montgomery Buses. This event took place due to Rosa Parks' refusal to give a seat to a white male.

This cartoon highlights the unjust and unfair laws that were passed against blacks, and the ridiculous steps that were taken to stop them from voting.

In the cartoon, the whites cannot understand the word "Literacy." Yet, they expect blacks to pass a literacy test. This test was often too difficult for even moderately educated whites to pass, they shouldn't have expected oppressed blacks to be able to pass it.



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This cartoon focuses more on our today, and the idea that King's dream still remains somewhat underfinished and a bit forgotten and painted over. There is still slight gender-discrimination in some areas, racist groups still remain, and people do not treat each other as equals. The cartoon is a powerful reminder that even though Acts were passed against discrimination, we still have to fight hard to make that dream a reality.