CIVIL RIGHTS TIME LINE

A Civil Rights Timeline between 1951-1969

The African-American Civil Rights Movement were the movements during the 1950's to 1960's that were aimed at making racial discrimination against African Americans illegal and restoring their voting. This movement, as well as the Black Power Movement between the 1960's and 1970's, expanded the goals of the Civil Rights Movement beyond ending racial discrimination by including the feelings of political and economic self-sufficiency, racial dignity, and freedom from any oppression by white Americans.

The civil rights movement was most notably characterized by large campaigns of civil resistance. During that time, civil disobedience and acts of nonviolent protest resulted in crisis situations between government authorities and activists. Local, federal, and state governments, communities, and businesses often responded immediately to situations that demonstrated the inequities that African Americans faced. Examples of protest or civil disobedience included boycotts, sit-ins, marches, and many other nonviolent activities.

http://kids.laws.com/civil-rights-timeline

A Civil Rights Timeline: 1

- **1951:** Linda Brown, an 8-year-old girl living in Topeka, Kansas, has to travel by bus to a distant school for African-American students, despite living within walking distance from an elementary school that is only for white children. This is due to segregation policies in the school districts. Linda Brown's father sues the state school board of Topeka. The United States Supreme Court agrees to hear this case.
- **1953:** In Monteagle, Tennessee, the Highlander Folk School in runs various workshops to teach how to organize protests for people like union organizer. The school invites civil rights workers.
- **1954:** In the Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education, the court decides on May 17 that "separate but equal" schools cannot be equal and are inherently unequal. This Supreme Court decision makes any legal school segregation unconstitutional.
- **1955:** In July, Rosa Parks goes to a workshop held at the Highlander Folk School for civil rights organizers.
- **1955:** In November of that year, the segregation is prohibited by the Federal Interstate Commerce Commission on interstate trains and buses.
- **1955:** Rosa Parks does not give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus on December 1 in Montgomery, Alabama, which was the catalyst for the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- **1955:** On December 5, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected by the Montgomery Improvement Association as the president to lead the boycott.

A Civil Rights Timeline: 2

- **1955:** In July, Rosa Parks goes to a workshop held at the Highlander Folk School for civil rights organizers.
- **1955:** In November of that year, the segregation is prohibited by the Federal Interstate Commerce Commission on interstate trains and buses.
- **1955:** Rosa Parks does not give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus on December 1 in Montgomery, Alabama, which was the catalyst for the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- **1955:** On December 5, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected by the Montgomery Improvement Association as the president to lead the boycott.
- **1956:** On November 13, the Supreme Court upholds the decision made by the Alabama district court which ruled in favor of the boycotters of the Montgomery bus lines.
- **1956:** The Montgomery Bus Boycott finally ends in December, and results in Montgomery buses being fully integrated.

A Civil Rights Timeline: 3

.

- **1959:** In a 7-2 decision handed down on December 5 by the Supreme Court in the case Boynton v. Virginia case, the court rules that segregation on vehicles that travel between states is unlawful and unconstitutional because it is in violation of the Interstate Commerce Act.
- **1961:** On May 15, the Birmingham group of Freedom Riders wishes to continue their trip, but no bus agrees to take them so they instead fly to New Orleans.
- **1961:** On May 29, President Kennedy makes an announcement ordering the Interstate Commerce Commission to create and enforce stricter fines and regulations for facilities and buses that will not to integrate.

A Civil Rights Timeline: 4

- **1963:** The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom occurs on August 28 in Washington D.C. where nearly 250,000. Here, King famously delivers his "I have a dream" speech.
- **1964:** Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on July 2. The act bans discrimination in public places and in employment.
- **1965:** Three thousand marchers leave Selma for Montgomery on March 21, to demand voting rights.
- **1965:** Nearly 25,000 people join the Selma marchers on March 25 at the city limits of Montgomery.
- **1965:** President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, which illegalizes all discriminatory voting requirements, such as requiring literacy tests before registering to vote, which was previously used by white Southerners to prevent black Southerners from voting.
- **1967:** Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American Justice appointed to the Supreme Court on September 1.
- **1967:** Cal Stokes becomes the first African-American to be elected as the mayor of a major American city on November 7.

- **A Civil Rights Timeline: 5**

- **1962:** The Supreme Court rules on September 10 that the University of Mississippi has to admit, James Meredith, an African-American veteran and student.
- **1962:** On September 26, Ross Barnett, the governor of Mississippi, orders state troopers to stop Meredith from entering the University of Mississippi campus.
- **1962:** From September 30 to October 1, riots erupt at over James Meredith's enrollment at the University of Mississippi.
- **1962:** Meredith becomes the 1st African-American student at the University of Mississippi on October 1 after President Kennedy orders United States marshals to the campus to ensure his safety.