

The Civil Rights Movement

- The Segregation System
 - *Plessey V Ferguson*
 - Separate but equal
 - Segregation continued into the 20th century
- Challenging Segregation in Court
 - Thurgood Marshall
 - Dedicated his life to fighting racism
 - He was denied admission to the University of Maryland Law School
 - In 1961 JFK nominated Marshall to the US Court of Appeals
 - He was later the first African-American Supreme Court justice
 - *Brown v Board of Education*
 - The father of an 8 year old girls had charged the board of education in Topeka Kansas with violating the young girls rights by denying her admission to an all white elementary school four blocks from her house
 - The nearest all black elementary school was 21 blocks away
 - The Supreme Court unanimously struck down segregation in schooling as an unconstitutional violation of the 14th Amendment
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott
 - Four days after the *Brown v Board of Education* decision a letter was written to the Montgomery Alabama bus organization asking that bus drivers no longer be allowed to force riders in the “colored” section to yield their seats to whites
 - The Montgomery mayor refused
 - Rosa Parks
 - A seamstress and a NAACP officer, took a seat in the front row of the “colored” section of the bus in Montgomery
 - The bus filled up and driver order Parks and three other African Americans to empty the row they were seating in so white riders could have a seat
 - Parks refused to move
 - Parks was arrested and the new spread quickly
- The Movement Spread
 - Sit Ins
 - Protesters sat down at segregated lunch counters and refused to leave until they were served
 - In 1960, African American students from NC A and T staged a sit-in at a whites only lunch counter at a Woolworth’s store in Greensboro, NC
 - This time TC crews were brought in to cover the protest
 - The four became know as the Greensboro Four

- The March on Washington
 - President JFK had sent a bill to Congress which would guarantee equal access to all public accommodations and gave the US attorney general the power to file school desegregation suits
 - On August 28, 1963 more than 250,000 people including about 75,000 white, converged on the nation's capital
 - They assembled on the grassy lawn of the Washington Monument and march to the Lincoln Memorial
 - This is where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his I have a dream speech
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Following JFK's assassination President Johnson pledged to carry on JFK's work
 - In July of 1964 Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination because of race, religion, national origin and gender. It gave all citizens the right to enter libraries, parks, washrooms, restaurants, theaters and other public accommodations
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Eliminated the so-called literacy test that had disqualified many voters
- New Leaders Voice Discontent
 - Malcolm X
 - He developed a philosophy of black superiority and separatism from whites
 - He urged African Americans to identify with Africa and to work with world organizations and even progressive whites to attain equality
 - Black Panthers
 - Demonstrated growing radicalism of some segments of the African American community
 - They wanted to fight police brutality in the ghettos
 - They advocated self-sufficiency for African Americans communities as well as full employment and decent housing
 - Members maintained that African Americans should be exempt from the military service because of unfair number of black youths had been drafted to serve in Vietnam
- 1968 – The Turning Point in the Civil Rights Movement
 - MLK's assassination
 - MLK objected the black power movement and believed in acting non violently
 - On April 4, 1968 MLK was shot
- The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement
 - Civil Rights Act of 1968
 - Ended discrimination in housing
 - Affirmative Action

- Making special efforts to hire or enroll groups that have suffered discrimination