Civil Rights Timeline

1619
The first slaves arrive in what is now the United States of America from Africa.

Why were slaves bought to America? How did they travel? Did slaves exist before 1619?

1862
Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation frees Southern slaves.

Who was Abraham Lincoln? What work did slaves do? What is emancipation?

1865
The Thirteenth Amendment to the American Constitution is made.

What did this amendment state? Why is this significant?

1875
The Civil Rights Act passes.

What should this have meant in practice? What was the outcome?

1882 – 1901
Lynching becomes epidemic in the South. Thousands of African-American people are murdered by vigilante groups.

What was lynching? What is a vigilante group? Why were African American people being murdered?

1883
A Supreme Court ruling reverses part of the 1875 act. The policy of segregation becomes widespread in the South.

What is segregation? Can you think of any other examples of segregation?

1884
The decision in the legal case of Plessy v. Ferguson means that idea of “separate but equal” is enshrined in law.

What did “separate but equal” mean according to this case? What could be segregated? What other name was given to these laws?

1896
The NAACP is formed.

What does NAACP stand for? What does the NAACP do today?

1897
A Supreme Court ruling reverses part of the 1875 act. The policy of segregation becomes widespread in the South.

What is segregation? Can you think of any other examples of segregation?

1909
The Supreme Court declares segregation in schools to be unconstitutional.

What earlier law from 1896 did the court overturn? Did schools immediately de-segregate? Are schools segregated today?

1954
Rosa Parks is arrested.

What did Rosa Parks do to get arrested? What protest followed?

1955
Dr Martin Luther King Jr. becomes the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

What kind of doctor was he?

1957
Civil Rights Act is passed.

What was the outcome of the Act?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Greensboro Diner Sit-in.</td>
<td>Who was involved? Why were they protesting?</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>The Freedom Riders are arrested.</td>
<td>What were The Freedom Rides?</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>James Meredith attempts to attend Mississippi University.</td>
<td>Was he successful? What intervention occurred?</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>250,000 civil rights protesters march in Washington.</td>
<td>Why did the protestors march? Did they achieve anything by marching?</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>The Civil Rights Act is passed by Congress.</td>
<td>What does this act state? How was this Act different from the one passed in 1957?</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Malcolm X is assassinated.</td>
<td>Who was Malcolm X? Why was he assassinated?</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Dr Martin Luther King Jr. leads a civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery.</td>
<td>Why did people march?</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>The Voting Rights Act is passed.</td>
<td>What did this mean?</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>State laws forbidding inter-racial marriage are declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.</td>
<td>What did this mean?</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Dr Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.</td>
<td>Who assassinated Dr King? What was their sentence?</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Black Power protest at the Mexico Olympics.</td>
<td>Who was involved? What did they do?</td>
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