

# Civil Rights

5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

Film director seeks actor to portray a wide range of characters. Bonus points if you have a great voice.

### Wanted

Television network seeks well-known comedian to produce the highest-ranking sitcom of all-time.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Equal Rights!

### Wanted

The American people seek a new President of the United States. If all goes well, you'll be elected to a second term in 2012...

name: \_\_\_\_\_



*Rosa Parks*

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# Civil Rights Leaders

Read the clues below and find the names of the Civil Rights icons in the word search.

1. An early civil rights activist and writer.
2. A writer and speaker who worked to abolish slavery.
3. Another writer and speaker who worked to abolish slavery.
4. She refused to give up her seat to a white patron.
5. A preacher from Atlanta who led the Civil Rights movement.
6. A group of college students who refused to leave a segregated restaurant.
7. The first African-American students to attend Little Rock Central High School after schools became desegregated in 1957.
8. A controversial speaker who said nonviolence wouldn't work. He wanted African-Americans to stand up for themselves.
9. An organization that helps Americans of all races achieve equality.

S T O A Z N K I U I L P C S R O B F N O  
E T I S E U O S D J H U S K H H R I P C  
N F R E D E R I C K D O U G L A S S H B  
I C X R M E R R T O O D E T T E N R C L  
N C C H A E S H A T U P I E R T F A I A  
K A E R H S L S S R O S A P A R K S N E  
C N G R A D H A H L N U G O O I U W R U  
O T O O D B O R J R O O O Q T W O K B E  
R S O J O U R N E R T R U T H L R M U U  
E G J R U O F O R O B S N E E R G E H T  
L E R I A R I O U O F E S S R T T U T W  
T R J G N I K R E H T U L N I T R A M C  
T I E F E K O H L C H R X R R M D E B U  
I U C A O E E T M J O R M A K H O L C R  
L R I R P C A A N U F I L T G R O R P E  
E K L O C J P R T S L O O S H T E R S D  
H M O B A M A C K O E N C E T E Z U O R  
T I K I C K A H Q I H R L E S W E M U A  
N Z W E B D U B O I S S A E G E I S P D  
U I S X H N U O I D R L M R B L H S I O

THE GREENSBORO FOUR  
THE LITTLE ROCK NINE  
ROSA PARKS

SOJOURNER TRUTH  
MALCOLM X  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

WEB DUBOIS  
NAACP  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS

*The*  
**Road to Freedom**

Three stacked rectangular boxes with rounded corners and blue borders. Each box contains three horizontal lines for writing. The boxes are connected to the right side by a solid black line that curves over the top and under the bottom.

Three stacked rectangular boxes with rounded corners and blue borders. Each box contains three horizontal lines for writing. The boxes are connected to the left side by a dashed black line that curves over the top and under the bottom.

# Vocabulary

Match the Civil Rights vocabulary word to the definition.

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***Civil disobedience***

To protest a company by refusing to buy their merchandise or use their service.

***Protest***

A public showing of disapproval for a rule or event, such as a march or rally.

***Demonstration***

To separate a group of people by race, gender or other factor.

***Nonviolence***

To disapprove of something in a public way.

***Segregate***

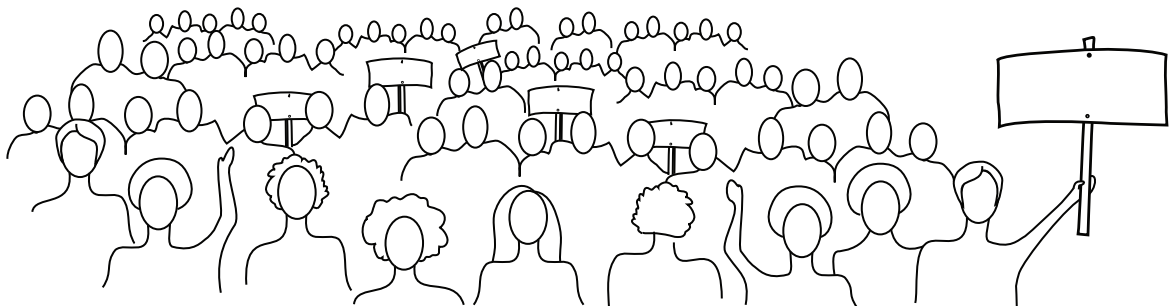
The act of trying to bring about change without using violence.

***Boycott***

Disobeying or refusing to follow a law without breaking any others.

***Assassination***

The murder of a political figure.



# How the Civil Rights Movement Began

Brave citizens of all backgrounds have been fighting for the rights of African-Americans since before America even became a country. When the slave trade began here in the 1700s, many colonists did not agree with it. In fact, an early version of the Constitution contained a paragraph that said slavery was **morally** wrong. Representatives from southern colonies, where there were many plantations that **employed** slaves, **pressured** the writers to take it out of the final draft.

The fight for freedom picked up again during the Civil War, when the issue of slavery was hotter than ever. Activists like Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth wrote essays and gave speeches about the evils of slavery. Though the public's opinion on the rights of African-Americans was changing, the law was not quite caught up. The 1857 case of *Dredd Scott v. Sanford* said that slaves and people descended from slaves did not count as U.S. citizens, and *Plessy v. Ferguson* made the phrase 'separate but equal' famous. Then in 1863, slavery was finally outlawed.

In 1909, the NAACP was founded to help **ensure** the rights of African-Americans. Things began to change again in the 1920s and '30s, when the Harlem Renaissance began taking shape in New York City. African-American poets, playwrights, painters, musicians, dancers and other artists were not only making world-class art at an incredible rate, but white culture was beginning to appreciate their work. In northern and western cities, African-Americans were beginning to find work and become more accepted into society. However, in the south, harsh laws did not allow black people to use the same restrooms, drinking fountains, buses and trains, hotels and restaurants as the rest of their community.

For all the advances that were made in the 19th and 20th centuries, African-American were still being **oppressed** in many parts of the country. By the 1950s, they had had enough. It was time to take a stand as a community.

## VOCABULARY

**Morally:** Having to do with basic human rights.

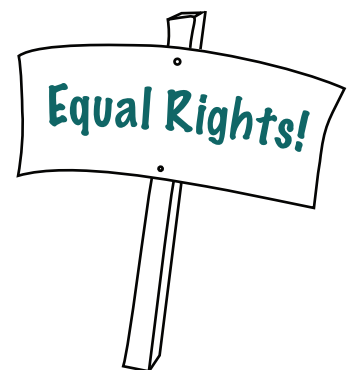
**Employed:** Gave work to.

**Pressured:** Forced or threatened.

**Ensure:** To make sure.

**Debunking:** Proving to be untrue.

**Oppressed:** Punished without reason.



**Road to Freedom:** Find the main idea of this page and write it in the next space on your 'Road to Freedom' chart.

# *The* **Montgomery Bus Boycott**

Read about the Montgomery Bus Boycott below. Using what you've learned, answer the questions on the next page.

---

One of the first big events in the fight for civil rights was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. For many years, segregation laws existed in Alabama. This meant that white people and black people couldn't use the same schools, restaurants, hotels, restrooms or drinking fountains. Public places were separated according to race.

Rosa Parks was a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama. One evening, after a long day at work, she sat down on a section of the bus where everybody was allowed to sit – however, the rule was that, if a white person got on the bus and there was nowhere to sit, black riders must give up their seat for them. When a bus driver ordered Rosa Parks to give up her seat to a white passenger that had just boarded and, she refused to do so. Because she disobeyed the bus driver, she was sent to jail. However, Rosa was the secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP! When her friends heard about Rosa's arrest, they organized a boycott of city buses. Instead of taking the bus, people who supported Rosa walked or carpoled to work and school. The strike lasted for over a year. People from other parts of the country even sent coats and shoes to the boycotters in Montgomery. Some taxi drivers reduced their fares so that they would be the same cost as a bus ticket.

At the time of the boycott, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the city's regular bus riders were African-American. The longer the boycott went on, the more money the bus company lost. They realized how damaging it could be to their business and their reputation. In 1956, the federal court ruled that segregation on buses was unconstitutional.

*Rosa Parks*



# The Montgomery Bus Boycott

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Why do you think the boycott was so successful?

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Why do you think people sent warm clothes and shoes to people in Montgomery, even though they were not from there?

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For many years after, the bus that Rosa sat on that evening ended up abandoned in a field. When it was discovered that it was the famous bus that started the Montgomery boycott, it was put up for auction. A museum bought it, and a federal grant was given to them to have the bus restored. Why do you think people wanted so badly to preserve this bus?

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***Road to Freedom:*** Find the main points of the passage and write them in your 'Road to Freedom' organizer.

# Brown *vs.* Board of Education

Read about the case of Brown versus The Board of Education below. Then follow the writing prompt on the next page.



In 1954, the Supreme Court saw *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, a court case that challenged segregation in public schools. The court eventually ruled that segregation in schools was unconstitutional. The decision was one of the first victories for civil rights.

Oliver Brown was a parent in Topeka. Because of segregation, his daughter had to walk six blocks to catch a bus that would take her to a school a mile away. There was another school just a few blocks away from their house, but she could not attend it because she was African-American. Oliver, with the help of the NAACP, filed a suit against the city's school board.

Before *Brown vs. Board of Education* passed, the law said that providing 'separate but equal' **facilities** for different races was legal. Towns and cities, as well as private businesses, could separate their buildings and services based on race, as long as the service offered to both groups were of equal quality. However, that wasn't always the case: many restaurants, waiting rooms, drinking fountains and restrooms offered to African-Americans in segregated communities were of much poorer quality than the ones offered to whites.

Oliver Brown wasn't the only person to file a suit about the unfairness of school segregation. There were five cases filed about it in five different states. All had the same goal: to protest the segregation of schools and the **inferior** conditions that many students in segregated schools had to **endure**. The Supreme Court heard the evidence from all cases and ruled that separating people based on race was in and of itself an unfair practice.

Integrating the schools was not easy. Citizens who didn't like the idea of blacks and whites going to school together took matters into their own hands. For years following desegregation, citizens would show up outside integrated schools to **antagonize** black students as they walked to class by yelling at them, calling them names and spitting on them. Often times, police had to be called in to make sure fights didn't break out. In 1957, many Little Rock citizens, including the governor of the state, didn't want one of the city's high schools to be integrated. On the first day of integration for Little Rock Central High School, he called in the National Guard to prevent the students from going inside. The students were finally allowed in the school at the end of September, when the army had to **escort** them inside to protect them from angry protesters.



# Sit-Ins

Read about sit-ins below. Then complete the activities on the next page.

---

In 1960, four students staged a nonviolent protest against segregation that would help **mobilize** hundreds of anti-segregationists.

Woolworth's was a chain store with many locations across the country. Though it was a store, many stores also had a small restaurant where shoppers could buy light meals. In southern states, many of these restaurants were segregated.

In 1960, four college students who wanted to end segregation went to their local Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. They sat in the whites-only section and asked to be served but the staff refused to serve them. The manager asked them to leave the restaurant but they would not. They stayed until the restaurant closed.

They went back to school and told their friends about it. The next day, 25 people joined them. The day after that, 60 people. The day after that, over 100. On the fourth day, 300 people were peacefully protesting segregation with them. The protesters all followed the same rules: they would come in, sit in the white section, ask for service, and when they were told they could not be served, would stay in their seats until closing time, thus preventing any new customers from coming in. Though people who opposed their protest **taunted** them and sometimes even hurt them, the protesters remained calm and stayed in their seats. To pass the time, they would read, study or do homework.

By the second day of the protest, the news had reported on the event, which spread word of their protest to other parts of the country. Soon, all over the south, African-Americans and their **allies** were staging sit-ins at Woolworth's lunch counters, and friends who did not participate in the sit-ins urged others not to shop at Woolworth's stores. The attention from the media helped people all over the country hear about the injustice that was happening in the south.

Five months later, after sales at the stores dropped by 1/3rd, Woolworth's agreed to integrate their lunch counters. This was a **milestone** in the fight for civil rights: up until then, African-Americans had voiced their disapproval of segregation, but had always followed the rules. The way the protesters achieved change through peaceful protest told the rest of the country that change was coming.

# Sit-Ins

## VOCABULARY

Match the word with the definition.

**MOBILIZE**

Teased or “egged on.”

**TAUNTED**

To inspire to take action.

**ALLIES**

An important event.

**MILESTONE**

People who work together toward the same goal.

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What was the meaning behind the protesters' refusal to leave?

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Why do you think the protesters stayed silent when being teased by other patrons? How did this help their cause?

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**Road to Freedom:** Find the main points of the passage and write them in your 'Road to Freedom' organizer.



# *The* Civil Rights Anthems

Music was a big part of the Civil Rights movement. Many leaders and participants found inspiration and comfort in songs that reflected their struggles or made statements that were similar to their beliefs.

Find recordings of the songs below and answer the questions. These songs have been recorded many different times by many different artists. See how the song changes with each recording!

---

**“We Shall Overcome”**: “We Shall Overcome” started as a spiritual, sung in churches to show perseverance in the face of hardship. Many people involved in the Civil Rights movement got their ideas and inspiration about nonviolence from their local churches and the teachings of the Bible. When the movement ramped up, people sang this song to show their determination.

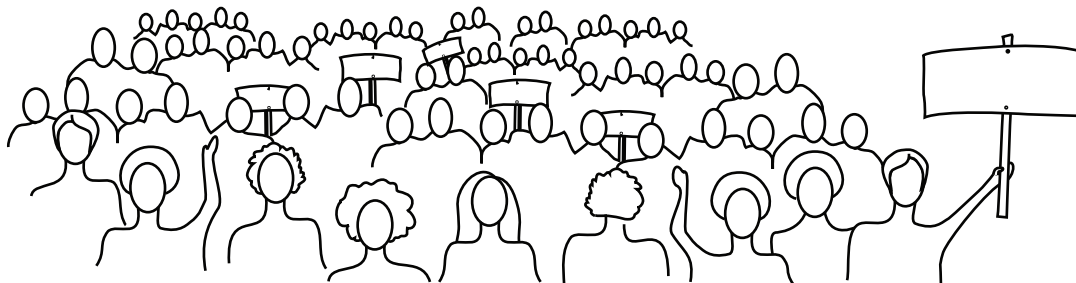
Who is the artist? \_\_\_\_\_

What year was it recorded? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it get a message of peace across? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it inspire? \_\_\_\_\_



# *The* **Civil Rights Anthems**

**“To Be Young, Gifted and Black”**: This song was written by jazz singer Nina Simone in honor of her friend Lorraine Hansberry, a playwright who wrote plays about the African-American struggle. People fighting for Civil Rights took the song’s positive message and used it to highlight the talents of African-Americans.

**Who is the artist?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What year was it recorded?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it make you feel?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it get a message of peace across?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it inspire?** \_\_\_\_\_

**“A Change is Gonna Come”**: This song was written by R&B legend Sam Cooke in the early 1960s. When he heard Bob Dylan’s protest song, “Blowin’ in the Wind,” he was surprised to hear such a powerful song about Civil Rights written by someone who wasn’t black. He then wrote his own song about the struggle for equality, “A Change is Gonna Come.” The song regained popularity during president Barack Obama’s first election to show how he represented how far American society had come since Civil Rights.

**Who is the artist?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What year was it recorded?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it make you feel?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it get a message of peace across?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does it inspire?** \_\_\_\_\_



# Write *your own* Protest Song!

The 1960s was the era of the protest song! During the civil rights movement, people used music to express their views on justice and equality. In the 1960s, protest songs were a popular form of music and could be heard both at rallies and on the radio. During the March on Washington, rock singers Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary performed to show their support.

Protest songs have been sung as far back as the 1800s and as recently as today. Most often, the singer sings about something that is going on in their community and talks about what kind of changes he would like to see happen. Protest songs are usually angry, sad or optimistic. They've been written in all different styles, from folk to soul to hip-hop.

Try your hand at writing a protest song! First, ask your parent, grandparent or teacher to help you find examples of protest songs. Some of the most well-known songs, like "Blowin' in the Wind," "What's Goin' On," and "A Change is Gonna Come" Listen to the structure of the songs and start thinking about a social issue you've noticed in your city, state or country.

**Verse:** Explain what the problem is here. Your lyrics don't have to rhyme!

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**Chorus:** Write a sentence that describes the change you'd like to see made.

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**Verse 2:** Describe how you think life would be better if this change happened.

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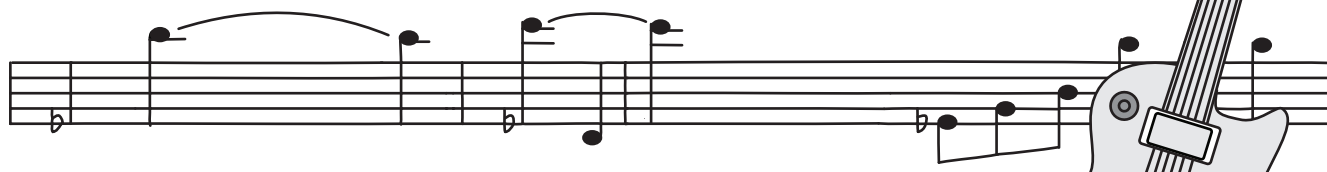
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**Chorus:** Write the sentence that describes the change again.

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# *The* Court Cases

Many legal rights were won for African-Americans during the Civil Rights movement. See if you can match the famous court case or law to the change it made to society. Hint: Look for clues in the names of the cases and bills!

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***Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka***

This part of the Civil Rights Act says it's illegal to hire or fire people based on their race, gender or religious beliefs.

***Loving vs. Virginia***

This case, one of the first to go through, ended segregation in schools.

**Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII**

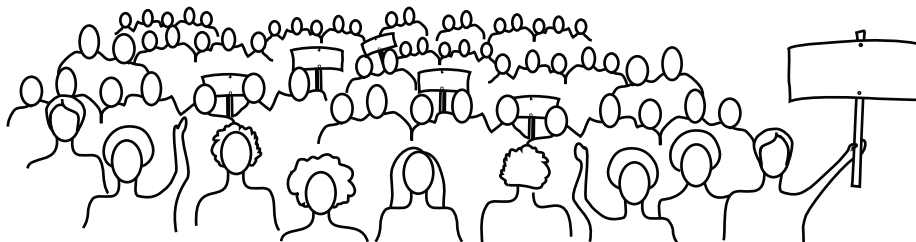
This case ruled that marriage between people of different races cannot be made illegal.

**Voting Rights Act of 1965**

This act made it illegal for landlords to deny people housing based on their race, nationality or religion.

**Fair Housing Act of 1968**

This act made it illegal to require people to take tests before voting, giving everyone the opportunity to vote.

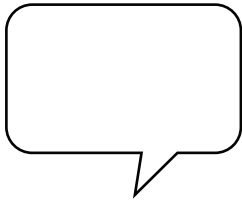


# Draw Your Own Comic!

Pick a hero you've read about in this book. Write and illustrate a comic about a heroic deed they did!

**A few hints:**

- Decide on the story you want to tell ahead of time. Make sure it will fit in the available panels.
- Draw your comic lightly in pencil to make sure you like what you've done. Once you're satisfied, you can go over your lines in darker pencil, pen, or marker.
- Sketch your speech balloons lightly, too. They can be hard to draw, even for professional illustrators! Don't worry if you can't draw them perfectly right away. If you like, you can trace or cut out the ones below:



\_\_\_\_\_   
 (title of your comic)

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (your name)

\_\_\_\_\_   
 (date)

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |



*The*

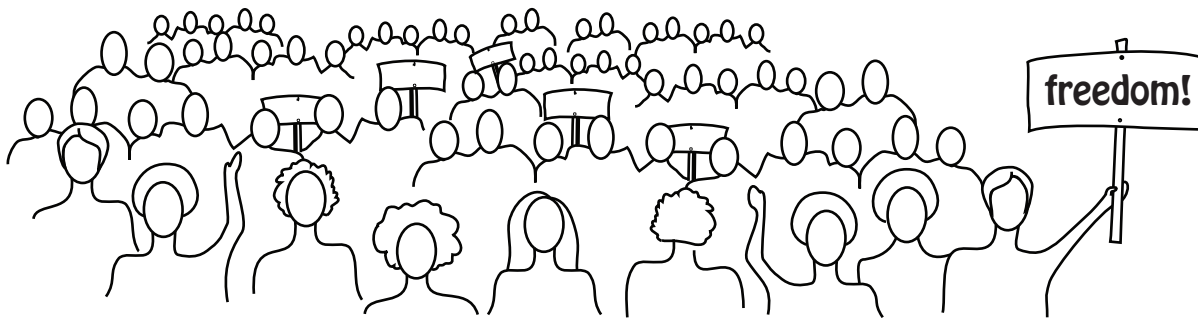
# March on Washington

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The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was one of the biggest political rallies in the history of the United States. At the rally, civil rights supporters and activists gathered to show their support for the Civil Rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to 200,000 people.

In response to other protests taking place at the time, President Kennedy had signed an act that ensured many rights for African-Americans. To help encourage Congress to adopt the new laws and to encourage politicians all across the country to take a firm stance against racism, the March on Washington was held.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1963, over 250,000 people gathered on the National Mall to show their support for civil rights and equality. With the march, they showed the rest of the country that it wasn't just African-Americans who wanted equality – people of all backgrounds attended the march because they wanted to see change in the lives of all American citizens, no matter the color of their skin. People sang songs and gave speeches. Among the 250,000 attendees were even some famous actors, singers and athletes who believed in equality.



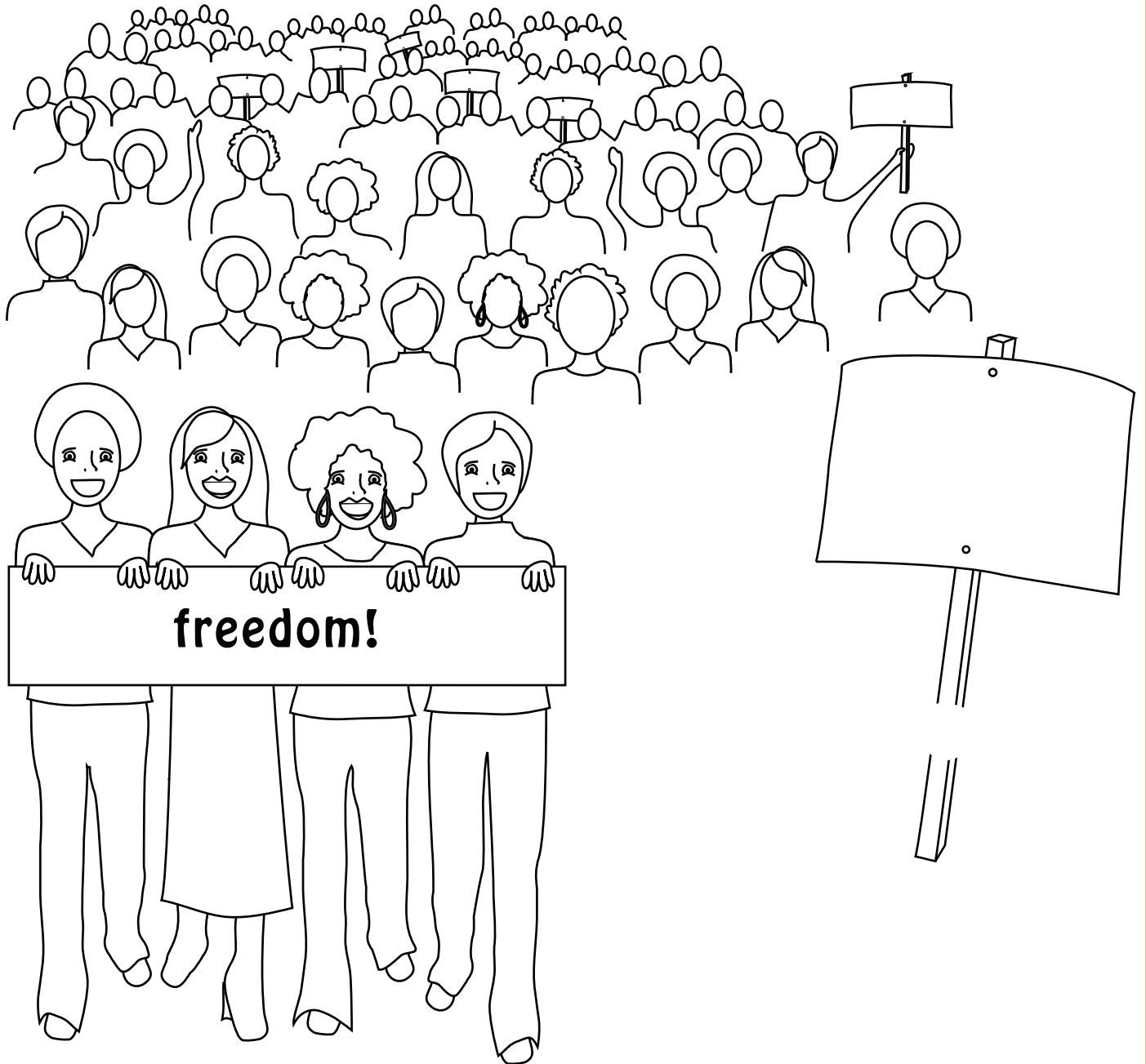
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**Road to Freedom:** Add a summary of this page to your Road to Freedom organizer.

*The*

# March on Washington

Imagine you were at the March on Washington. What message would you most have wanted to share? What would you want to write on your sign? Draw yourself among the marchers, and write your message on the sign you're holding.



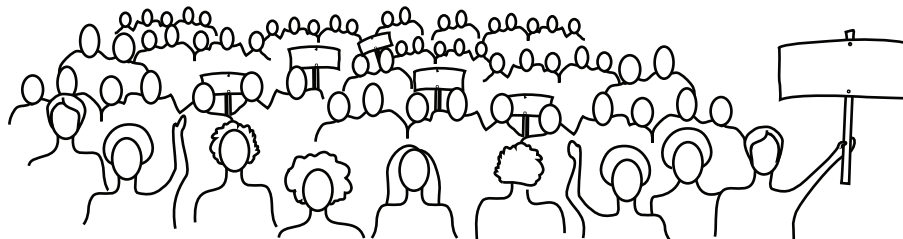
# *The* **Later Years** *of the* **Movement**

**Read about the later years of the Civil Rights Movement below. Then follow the writing prompt on the next page.**

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*By* the end of the '60s, the Civil Rights movement had changed a lot. Many goals had been met: segregation had ended, housing discrimination was made illegal, and discriminatory voting practices had been outlawed. However, there was still more work to be done: many peaceful demonstrations in the late '60s ended in bloody fighting. Though they had won many legal rights, African-Americans were still looked down upon by many people. Many citizens still refused to accept them into their communities and attacked and hurt them. In 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Though leaders asked citizens to remain calm in response to the terrible news, riots broke out all over the country.

People's attitudes toward how African-Americans should achieve their rights had changed. Though the ideals of nonviolence had spread to other protests going on at the time, many people wondered if it was still working. Some began to believe that if confronted with violence, people should defend themselves and fight back. Activists like Malcolm X argued that for African-Americans to achieve power in society, they should not work with others but should work to improve their own neighborhoods and communities to show that they could do it without the help of white people. He and other activists thought that integration and equality might cause African-Americans to blend in and lose their individuality, and encouraged his followers to take pride in their African heritage and culture. Many people agreed with his ideas, and by the end of the '60s groups that encouraged self-defense and self-reliance were becoming just as influential as those that preached nonviolence.





# Cultural Pride *Vs.* The Melting Pot

In the late '60s, the Civil Rights movement began to focus more on African-Americans "defining themselves." Many people began to think it was better to create their own communities instead of waiting to be accepted into mainstream culture.

Think about a time you joined a team or club with people you didn't know very well. What did you learn from them? Did anything bad happen? There are good things and bad things about joining a new group, just as there are good things and bad things about staying in your own community. Which do you think is better? Organize the pros and cons of each in the chart below. See if you can spot any similarities.

| Benefits of Forming a Separate Community                | Benefits of Joining a New One                              |
|---|--|
| <i>You get to work together with like-minded people</i> | <i>You get to exchange new ideas with different people</i> |
|   |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |

| Drawbacks of Forming a Separate Community              | Drawbacks of Joining a New One              |
|--|---|
| <i>You won't be as exposed to other points of view</i> | <i>You may lose touch with your culture</i> |
|  |   |
|  |   |
|  |   |



# Modern-Day Heroes



There are plenty of heroic African-Americans working in all fields today. Match the modern-day hero to the want ad that fits them best!

## Heroes

Morgan Freeman  
Condoleezza Rice

Oprah Winfrey  
Aretha Franklin

Barack Obama  
Neil deGrasse Tyson

### Wanted

The American people seek a new President of the United States. If all goes well, you'll be elected to a second term in 2012...

name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

Planetarium seeks astrophysicist to serve as our director and make science cool for millions of Americans. Must be comfortable on camera: you'll also host TV specials about space.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

Television network seeks influential talk show host and philanthropist to host the most popular talk show of all time.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

The White House is looking for an experienced diplomat to serve as the 66th Secretary of State.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

Film director seeks actor to portray a wide range of characters. Bonus points if you have a great voice.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wanted

We're a record company looking for a soul superstar – some might even call you the queen. Must command "respect" with your powerful voice.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Road to Freedom:** Summarize the theme of this page and write it in the last space on your 'Road to Freedom' organizer.



Take the

# Civil Rights Pledge!



In order to carry on the legacy of the Civil Rights movement, we must all work together to make sure every person feels welcome and accepted in our community. On the lines below, list a way in which you can try to meet each goal.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to:

Treat everyone with respect and dignity.

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Learn about other cultures.

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Stand up to injustice.

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Respect other people's opinions, even if I don't agree with them.

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Be open to new ideas.

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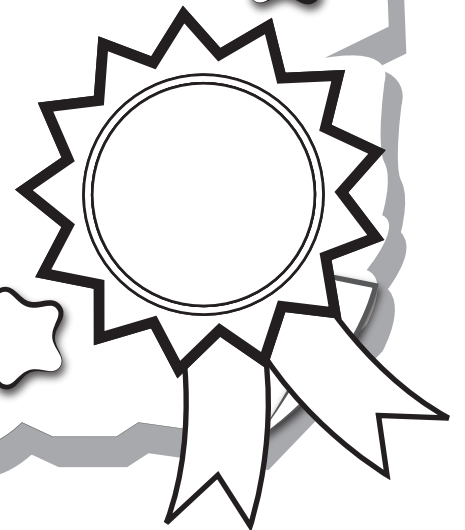
**When we all work together, we can keep the spirit of the Civil Rights movement alive!**



Great job!

---

is an Education.com reading superstar



# Answer Sheets

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## **Civil Rights**

Civil Rights Leaders

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# Answer Sheet

## Civil Rights Leaders

Read the clues below and find the names of the Civil Rights icons in the word search.

1. An early civil rights activist and writer.
2. A writer and speaker who worked to abolish slavery.
3. Another writer and speaker who worked to abolish slavery.
4. She refused to give up her seat to a white patron.
5. A preacher from Atlanta who led the Civil Rights movement.
6. A group of college students who refused to leave a segregated restaurant.
7. The first African-American students to attend Little Rock Central High School after schools became desegregated in 1957.
8. A controversial speaker who said nonviolence wouldn't work. He wanted African-Americans to stand up for themselves.
9. An organization that helps Americans of all races achieve equality.

S T O A Z N K I U I L P C S R O B F N O  
E T I S E U O S D J H U S K H H R I P C  
N F R E D E R I C K D O U G L A S S H B  
I C X R M E R R T O O D E T T E N R C L  
N C C H A E S H A T U P I E R T F A I A  
K A E R H S L S S R O S A P A R K S N E  
C N G R A D H A H L N U G O O I U W R U  
O T O O D B O R J R O O O Q T W O K B E  
R S O J O U R N E R T R U T H L R M U U  
E G J R U O F O R O B S N E E R G E H T  
L E R I A R I O U O F E S S R T T U T W  
T R J G N I K R E H T U L N I T R A M C  
T I E F E K O H L C H R X R R M D E B U  
I U C A O E E T M J O R M A K H O L C R  
L R I R P C A A N U F I L T G R O R P E  
E K L O C J P R T S L O O S H T E R S D  
H M O B A M A C K O E N C E T E Z U O R  
T I K I C K A H Q I H R L E S W E M U A  
N Z W E B D U B O I S S A E G E I S P D  
U I S X H N U O I D R L M R B L H S I O

THE GREENSBORO FOUR  
THE LITTLE ROCK NINE  
ROSA PARKS

SOJOURNER TRUTH  
MALCOLM X  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

WEB DUBOIS  
NAACP  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS