

Segregation in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s Knowledge Organiser

Key Words

segregation	The separation of black and white people in transport, education, housing and facilities.
Jim Crow	A set of laws that made segregation a legal requirement.
lynching	The mob killing of a person outside of the law, but often overlooked by the authorities.
discrimination	Treating one group more unfairly than another.
NAACP	The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
integration	The opposite of segregation; combining different groups of people fairly.

Brown vs Board of Education

In 1954, the NAACP took the Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas to court to allow an African-American schoolgirl, Linda Brown, to attend a white school. Linda had to travel several kilometres and cross a dangerous railway track to attend her nearest blacks-only school. There was a whites-only school nearby.

The NAACP won the case, leading to the Chief Justice ordering that segregated schools were unfair and integrated schools should be established across the southern states.

Jim Crow

Although slavery had been abolished in 1865, laws in many southern American states enshrined segregation between black and white people. Public transport and facilities were divided between those suitable for whites and those suitable for blacks. Black Americans were supposed to use separate train carriages, drinking fountains, public toilets and schools. The facilities provided for black people were almost always inferior to those for the white people. These laws only existed in the south but the northern states were still rife with inequality, even if this was not put enshrined in law. These laws gained their nickname from a minstrel song called 'Jump Jim Crow'.



Little Rock

Despite the NAACP victory in 1954, by 1957 many states had refused to create integrated schools. At the Little Rock school in Arkansas, nine black students were stopped by state troops from entering the school. The official reason for this was that the Governor of Arkansas was concerned for their safety, but a direct order from President Eisenhower stood the troops down, allowing the students to attend their lessons.



The Ku Klux Klan

A racist, anti-Semitic, Protestant group that carried out intimidation and lynching in the USA. At its height, the Klan boasted 4 million members across the USA. Their distinctive face masks and their practice of burning crosses was designed to intimidate black Americans.



Ku Klux Klan members, 1948



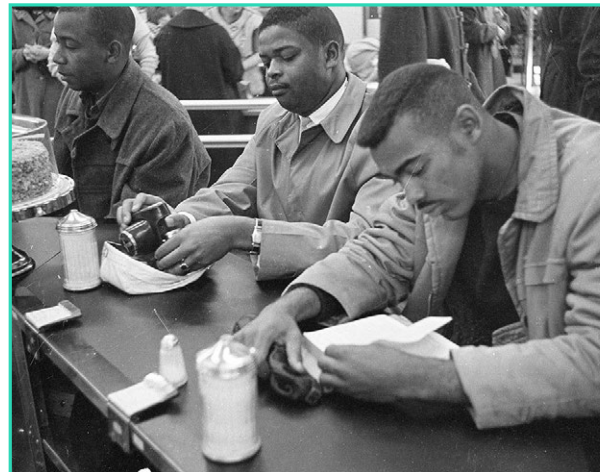
Civil Rights Timeline

1954	Brown vs Board of Education
1955-6	Montgomery Bus Boycott; Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on the bus
1957	Little Rock
1960	Greensboro sit-in
1961	Freedom Rides begin
1963	Assassination of JFK MLK speaks at the Washington March, ('I have a dream...') Nashville sit-ins Publication of The Feminine Mystique
1964	Civil Rights Act – housing and employment MLK receives the Nobel Peace Prize Malcolm X completes the Hajj pilgrimage
1965	Voting Rights Act Assassination of Malcolm X Los Angeles race riot Selma march President Johnson outlines his Great Society
1966	Founding of the Black Panthers Founding of the National Organisation for Women, (NOW)
1967	Detroit race riot

1968	Civil Rights Act – housing Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.
1969	Inspired by the Black Power movement, indigenous Americans take over Alcatraz Island in the name of Red Power
1970	Women’s Strike for Equality
1972	Contraception made legal for unmarried couples to use
1973	Roe vs Wade



Assassination of JFK - 1963



Greensboro sit-in - 1960



Selma march - 1965

