

Black History Month

THURGOOD MARSHAL



THURGOOD MARSHAL

EARLY YEARS

Thurgood Marshall, an influential figure in American history, was born on July 2, 1901, in Baltimore, Maryland, to parents William and Norma Marshall. His father worked as a steward of an all-white country club, while his mother was a kindergarten teacher. Interestingly, his grandfather had been a slave but managed to escape during the Civil War.

EDUCATIONAL VENTURES

Young Thurgood, though occasionally mischievous in school, excelled academically and displayed a penchant for arguing his case and debating his way to memorize the entire United States Constitution as a form of punishment. Despite his parents' hopes for him to become a dentist like his older brother, Thurgood aspired to be a lawyer. After high school, he attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he thrived in the debate team and became a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In 1921, he earned Vivian Burey. Thurgood's dream of attending the University of Maryland for law school was dashed due to local discrimination. Instead, he graduated first in his class from Howard University in 1933.

LEGAL PRACTICE

After passing the bar exam, Marshall established a small law practice in Baltimore. Notably, one of his early cases challenged the University of Maryland's discriminatory practices, resulting in a landmark victory for desegregation in 1935. Thurgood's reputation as a skilled lawyer and advocate for equal rights grew, leading to his appointment as chief counsel for the NAACP in 1936. Traversing across the country, he defended wrongly accused African Americans and fought against segregation and Jim Crow laws, earning him the nickname "Mr. Civil Rights."

NAACP INVOLVEMENT: FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

Thurgood Marshall's dedication to the pursuit of justice reached new heights when he assumed a pivotal role in the NAACP (National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1936. Recognized for his exceptional legal skills and unwavering commitment to securing equal rights for African Americans, Marshall became the chief counsel for the NAACP. His responsibilities extended to defending wrongly accused African Americans through

EDUCATION

A renowned case, Brown vs. Board of Education, focused on ending segregation in public schools. At the time, it was illegal in many states to send white children to schools with Black children. Marshall successfully argued that separate facilities could never be equal, leading to the Court ruling against segregation in schools across the nation.



Thurgood Marshall was a trailblazer, a first African American woman to serve on the Supreme Court. He spent 24 years on the Supreme Court, leading to a legacy of justice.

THURGOOD MARSHAL

Comprehension Questions

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. Thurgood Marshall was born in _____.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

i. _____

j. _____

k. _____

l. _____

m. _____

n. _____

o. _____

p. _____

q. _____

r. _____

s. _____

t. _____

u. _____

v. _____

w. _____

x. _____

y. _____

z. _____

NO-PREP & EDITABLE

READING COMPREHENSION



THURGOOD MARSHAL

EARLY YEARS

Thurgood Marshall, an influential figure in American history, was born on July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland, to parents William and Norma Marshall. His father worked as a steward at an all-white country club, while his mother was a kindergarten teacher. Interestingly, his grandfather had been a slave but managed to escape during the Civil War.

EDUCATIONAL VENTURES

Young Thurgood, though occasionally mischievous in school, excelled academically and displayed a penchant for arguing. His love for debates led him to memorize the entire United States Constitution as a form of punishment. Despite his parents' hopes for him to become a dentist like his brother, Thurgood aspired to attend high school, he attended University in Pennsylvania, where in the debate team and became of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He married Vivian Burey. Thurgood attended the University of Maryland, where he fought against racial discrimination. Instead, he earned a law degree from Howard University in 1933.

LEGAL PRACTICE

After passing the bar exam, Marshall moved to Baltimore. Not long after, he was appointed to the University of Maryland, resulting in a landmark case in 1935. Thurgood became an advocate for the appointment as a traveling advocate for accused African Americans. This role earned him the nickname "Mr. Civil Rights."



NAACP INVOLVEMENT: FIGURE

Thurgood Marshall's dedication to civil rights when he assumed a pivotal

role in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1936. Recognized for his exceptional legal skills and unwavering commitment to securing equal rights for African Americans, Marshall became the chief counsel for the NAACP. His responsibilities extended to defending wrongly accused African Americans throughout the nation, taking on cases that challenged segregation and Jim Crow laws prevalent in the South. Marshall's tireless efforts in these endeavors earned him the esteemed title of "Mr. Civil Rights." This significant phase in his career marked a crucial chapter in the ongoing struggle for equality and justice for African Americans in the United States.

PIVOTAL CASE: BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION



Illustration of two children sitting at a desk, one is a girl and one is a boy.

Thurgood Marshall's most renowned case, *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, focused on ending school segregation. At the time, it was illegal in many states for black and white children to attend the same schools. Marshall successfully argued that separate schools could never be equal, leading to the Supreme Court ruling that segregation in schools unconstitutional. This decision mandated the integration of schools across the nation.

JUDICIAL CAREER

In 1961, Marshall was appointed as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals by President John F. Kennedy, serving until 1965. Following this, he became the United States Solicitor General, representing the Federal government before the Supreme Court. Marshall's stance against the death penalty was rooted in his belief that it was unnecessary for justice.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

President Lyndon Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall for the Supreme Court in 1966, a historic moment as he became the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court. After a Senate confirmation in 1967, Marshall tirelessly championed individual rights. He retired in 1991, and on January 24, 1993, Thurgood Marshall passed away due to heart failure, leaving behind a legacy of justice and equality.



READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W
VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name: _____

Date: _____

THURGOOD MARSHAL

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. In which city was Thurgood Marshall born?

- a. Philadelphia
- b. Baltimore
- c. Washington, D.C.
- d. Richmond

2. What was Thurgood Marshall's father's occupation?

- a. Dentist
- b. Teacher
- c. Steward
- d. Doctor

3. Where did Thurgood Marshall attend law school after graduating from high school?

- a. Harvard University
- b. Lincoln University
- c. University of Maryland
- d. Howard University

4. Thurgood Marshall joined which fraternity during his time at Lincoln University?

Answers Key

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. In which city was Thurgood Marshall born?

- Answer: b. Baltimore (mentioned in the first paragraph)

2. What was Thurgood Marshall's father's occupation?

- Answer: c. Steward (mentioned in the first paragraph)

3. Where did Thurgood Marshall attend law school after graduating from high school?

- Answer: b. Lincoln University (mentioned in the second paragraph)

4. Thurgood Marshall joined which fraternity during his time at Lincoln University?

- Answer: b. Alpha Phi Alpha (mentioned in the second paragraph)

5. What significant case did Thurgood Marshall win against the University of Maryland in 1935?

- Answer: b. Marshall v. Maryland (mentioned in the third paragraph)

6. What position did Thurgood Marshall hold in the NAACP in 1936?

- Answer: c. Chief Counsel (mentioned in the fourth paragraph)

7. In which year did the Supreme Court rule segregation in schools unconstitutional in the case of Brown v. Board of Education?

- Answer: b. 1954 (mentioned in the fifth paragraph)

8. Who nominated Thurgood Marshall for the position of Supreme Court Justice?

- Answer: b. Lyndon Johnson (mentioned in the eighth paragraph)

9. What was Thurgood Marshall's stance on the death penalty?

- Answer: c. He was against it. (mentioned in the eighth paragraph)

10. When did Thurgood Marshall retire from the Supreme Court?

7. In which year did the Supreme Court rule segregation in schools unconstitutional in the case of Brown v. Board of Education?

Thurgood Marshall for the position of Supreme Court Justice?

supported it.

Thurgood Marshall's stance on the death penalty?

he supported it.

Thurgood Marshall retire from the Supreme Court?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did Thurgood Marshall's early education and his academic achievements highlight any challenges he faced in school?

2. How did Thurgood Marshall's decision to pursue a career in law help his parents' initial wishes for him to become a dentist? How did his initial journey contribute to his success as a lawyer?

3. How did Thurgood Marshall's involvement with the NAACP and his association for the Advancement of Colored People (AACP) help him play a role in what were some of the key issues he addressed time with the organization?

4. How did the significance of the Brown v. Board of Education case in fighting Thurgood Marshall's role and the impact of the Court's ruling on school segregation?

5. How did the NAACP in 1936?

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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NO-PREP !

JUST PRINT AND GO!



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EDITABLE

***FONTS ARE EMBEDDED FOR CONVENIENCE**

