

CIVIL Rights Movement

THE LITTLE ROCK NINE



Upon learning of the resistance faced by the Little Rock Nine in their pursuit of education, President Dwight Eisenhower took decisive action. Recognizing the gravity of the situation in Little Rock, he deployed the US Army to enforce school desegregation.

LITTLE ROCK NINE

SCHOOLS: The Supreme Court declared that schools could be separate schools for different races were they were equal. However, African American schools were as white schools, leading to unfair treatment.

OF EDUCATION: The Supreme Court in 1954, Thurgood Marshall presented the case, and desegregation in schools was required.



LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS: As the desegregation of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, an obstacle emerged. African American students at Central High School, notably Central High School, were met with a hostile environment. A NAACP leader, took the initiative to recruit willing students. Forming what would later be known as the Little Rock Nine. The students, opposing to integration, setting the stage for a historic fight for equal education. The Little Rock Nine, who stood against them, would become symbols of resistance in the face of institutionalized racism.

FIRST DAY CHALLENGES: On that momentous September 4, 1957, the Little Rock Nine faced daunting challenges during their first attempt to attend Central High School. Excitement and nervousness filled the air as they approached the school, anticipating a new educational journey. However, their optimism was met with hostility from the National Guard soldiers, vehemently opposing their presence. The National Guard soldiers, obstructed the students' path, making it clear that they were not welcome. Overwhelmed and fearing for their safety, the Little Rock Nine had no choice but to turn back, their initial attempt thwarted by a show of resistance.

CRUCIAL INTERVENTION:



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...residence in the local harm. These and the their right to...



...on the... segregation...

LITTLE ROCK NINE

Comprehension Questions

1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.
2. What case in the lawsuit Brown v. Board of Education was argued by Thurgood Marshall?
3. Who was the NAACP lawyer who argued the case in Brown v. Board of Education?

4. Why was the US Supreme Court rule in the Brown v. Board of Education case unconstitutional?
5. How did the Supreme Court rule in the Brown v. Board of Education case?

6. What was the primary challenge faced by the Little Rock Nine?
7. How did the NAACP respond to the segregation in Little Rock?

8. How did President Dwight Eisenhower respond to the Little Rock Nine?
9. How did the US Army protect the students during the Little Rock Nine crisis?

10. What was the reaction to the closure of public schools in Little Rock?
11. How did the Little Rock Nine respond to the closure of public schools?

12. How did the Little Rock Nine respond to the closure of public schools?
13. How did the Little Rock Nine respond to the closure of public schools?

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THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

SEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS:

In the 1950s, the US Supreme Court declared that schools could be segregated, meaning separate schools for different races were allowed, as long as they were equal. However, African American schools were often not as good as white schools, leading to unfair treatment.

Upon learning of the resistance faced by the Little Rock Nine in their pursuit of education, President Dwight Eisenhower took decisive action. Recognizing the gravity of the situation in Little Rock, he deployed the US Army to intervene and protect the African American students. This strategic move allowed the Little Rock Nine to return to Central High School, surrounded by armed military personnel, ensuring their safety and access to education. Eisenhower's intervention marked a crucial moment in history, highlighting the federal government's commitment to upholding the principles of equality and justice.



EDUCATION:
Dr. Thurgood Marshall argued the case, and desegregation in schools was



ARIZONA:

segregate schools emerged, separate schools, integration, equal education, against them, of instit

STRUGGLES AT SCHOOL:

Despite the protective presence of the US Army, the Little Rock Nine faced immense challenges during their time at Central High School. White students subjected them to mistreatment and derogatory names, creating a hostile environment. While guards escorted them through most areas of the school, certain spaces like restrooms and locker rooms became arenas of abuse beyond the soldiers' reach. The students exhibited remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, enduring insults and even physical harm. These struggles showcased the depth of racial tensions and the determination of the Little Rock Nine to pursue their right to education despite the hardships they endured.



SCHOOL CLOSURE AND REACTION:

In the aftermath of efforts to integrate Central High School, the governor of Arkansas made a drastic decision - he ordered the closure of all public high schools in Little Rock for an entire year. This extreme measure was fueled by a belief that shutting down the schools was preferable to having integrated ones. Unfortunately, the Little Rock Nine bore the brunt of blame for the closure, receiving a significant amount of blame from the media, education, and the public. The forced hiatus from education, blamed on the students, underscored the ongoing resistance to desegregation and the complex reactions within the community.



BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL:

The Little Rock Nine went on to lead successful lives. Many earned college degrees and pursued careers in diverse fields.

CHALLENGES:

Severe, daunting, nervous, school, optimism, the presence, the student, to resist

such as accounting, journalism, social work, teaching, and banking. Their accomplishments included positions in presidential administrations, reports for NBC News, and academic achievements.



ENDURING IMPACT:

The enduring impact of the Little Rock Nine is a testament to their courage and determination in the face of formidable challenges during the fight for equality in education. Their pivotal role in desegregating Central High School left an indelible mark on American history. Beyond the immediate events, the legacy of the Little Rock Nine resonates as a symbol of resilience and resistance against injustice. Their bravery became a catalyst for change, motivating countless individuals to stand up against discrimination.

As time has passed, the lasting influence of the Little Rock Nine is evident in the transformation of Central High School. Once a battleground for civil rights, it now stands as a powerful symbol of progress, fully integrated with students from diverse backgrounds attending classes together. The Little Rock Nine's commitment to dismantling racial barriers continues to inspire future generations to challenge systemic injustice. Their contribution remains a significant and enduring chapter in the ongoing struggle for equal rights, leaving an inspirational legacy that extends beyond the halls of Central High School.

ON:

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THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. Who represented the case in the lawsuit *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954?

- Daisy Bates
- Thurgood Marshall
- Dwight Eisenhower
- Orval Faubus

2. What did the US Supreme Court rule in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case?

- Segregation in schools is constitutional
- Segregation in schools is unconstitutional
- Segregation is acceptable in certain states
- Segregation should be decided by individual schools

3. What was the primary challenge faced by the Little Rock Nine on September 4, 1957?

- Lack of proper facilities
- Hostility and opposition from the public
- Academic difficulties
- Transportation issues

4. How did the Little Rock Nine respond to the

Answers Key

MCQ ANSWERS:

- Thurgood Marshall**
- "A lawsuit called *Brown v. Board of Education* was presented to the Supreme Court in 1954. Lawyer Thurgood Marshall represented and won the case."
- Segregation in schools is unconstitutional**
- "Lawyer Thurgood Marshall represented and won the case. Segregation in schools was declared unconstitutional."
- Hostility and opposition from the public**
- "Many people were standing around the school telling them to go away and they were not wanted there."
- Deployed the US Army to protect the students**
- "President Dwight Eisenhower took action after hearing the Arkansas governor had presented the Little Rock Nine from going to school. Eisenhower deployed the US Army to Little Rock to protect the students."
- Blamed on the Little Rock Nine**
- "The following year, the Arkansas governor closed all public high schools in Little Rock, believing it was better to have no schools than have integrated ones. Many people blamed the Little Rock Nine for causing them to miss a year of school, increasing racial tension."
- Daisy Bates**
- "African Americans were not allowed to attend Central High School in Little Rock. Arkansas, Daisy Bates, the local leader of the NAACP, recruited African American high school students to enroll at Central High."
- It became a national historic site**
- "Central High School is now a national historic site that still serves as a school. It is fully integrated, and students of many races attend together."
- Mistreatment and derogatory names**
- "Even though the Little Rock Nine had students to protect them, they still had a very difficult year. They were treated poorly by many of the white students and called names."

7. What impact did the Little Rock Nine have on Central High School?

- segregated
 - ermonently
 - ional historic site
 - led racial tension
- did the Little Rock Nine face during their time at Central High School?
- ernic support
 - and derogatory names
 - classrooms
 - esources
- governor of Arkansas respond to integration at Central High School?
- lic high schools
 - regation
 - situation
 - irect segregation policies
- an enduring impact of the Little Rock Nine on the ongoing struggle for equal rights?
- egregation
 - il residence in the civil rights movement
 - id future activism
 - id institutionalized racism

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- significance of the *Brown v. Board of Education* lawsuit and its impact on school segregation in the United States.
- the challenges faced by the Little Rock Nine on their first day at Central High School, including the role of the National Guard and the Little Rock Nine.
- President Dwight Eisenhower's intervention in the Little Rock crisis and what was the outcome of his actions?
- the reactions and consequences of the closure of public schools in Little Rock following the integration efforts by the Little Rock Nine.
- the enduring impact of the Little Rock Nine on the fight for civil rights, both within Central High School and in the broader context of the civil rights movement.

MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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