

Civil Rights Movement

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION





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The United States were separated by race in the 1950s. In 1954, the Supreme Court case in 1896 called Plessy v. Ferguson established the "separate but equal" doctrine. In 1954, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) fought for African American children's rights in Topeka, Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Louisiana.


SEPARATE, BUT NOT EQUAL!

While African American schools were different from white schools, they had the same quality of education. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that separate schools were not equal, violating the Fourteenth Amendment.



Thurgood Marshall was a key player in the case. He worked for the plaintiffs in the Brown case and became the first African American lawyer to argue before the Supreme Court from 1967 to 1991.

On the Fourteenth Amendment, citizens. The African American school districts claimed that the Fourteenth Amendment was violated.



The case was slow and the process of desegregation was delayed. The Supreme Court's decision in 1954 was a landmark case for desegregation. The process of desegregation was slow and the process of desegregation was delayed. The Supreme Court's decision in 1954 was a landmark case for desegregation.

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Comprehension Questions

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

1. The main focus of the Brown v. Board of Education case was:

a. equality in schools
b. segregation in schools
c. discrimination in schools
d. desegregation in schools

2. As the result of the Brown v. Board of Education case, schools should remain segregated.

3. The segregation violated the Constitution.

4. In 1954, what was the legal precedent for desegregation?

a. Brown v. Board of Education
b. Plessy v. Ferguson
c. Marshall v. NAACP
d. Men v. Topeka

5. Who was the representative-plaintiff in the Brown case?

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INTRODUCTION:

Do you have Friends From different races and backgrounds in your school? Well, we can thank the Brown v. Board of Education case for that! This important Supreme Court decision in 1954 changed the way schools treated students of different races, making sure everyone had equal opportunities.



BACKGROUND:

Before 1954, many schools in the United States were separated by race. This was allowed by a Supreme Court case in 1896 called Plessy v. Ferguson, which said that separate facilities were okay as long as they were equal. In the early 1950s, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) fought for African Americans' right to attend white schools in Kansas, South Carolina, and Delaware.



SEPARATE, BUT NOT EQUAL

White and African American children went to different schools. White schools had better facilities, buses, and equipment, while African American schools often received used books and had to walk to school. The Brown v. Board of Education case began when a parent, Oliver Brown, sued the school board, arguing that the segregated schools were not equal under the Constitution.

THURGOOD MARSHALL:

Thurgood Marshall, born in 1908, was a key player in the NAACP and became the lawyer for the plaintiff in the Brown v. Board of Education case. Marshall later became the first African American Supreme Court Justice, serving from 1967 to 1991.

THE CASE:

The arguments in the case were based on the Fourteenth Amendment, which promises equal protection for all citizens. The African American plaintiffs and their parents argued that segregation was unconstitutional. On the other side, the school districts claimed that segregation was constitutional because the Fourteenth Amendment didn't directly address education.

THE RULING:

Led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, the Supreme Court took time to reach a unanimous decision. On May 17, 1954, they ruled that school segregation violated the Constitution, and states had to integrate schools. This was a big step towards equal education for all.



IMPACT:

The impact of the Brown v. Board of Education case on desegregation was profound, yet the road to integration was slow and faced significant opposition. Despite the landmark decision from the Federal Supreme Court, desegregating schools required ongoing intervention from federal courts. Even a decade later, schools had not fully integrated, underscoring the resistance and challenges that persisted. While the Brown decision laid the crucial foundation for the broader civil rights movement, it became evident that achieving true equality in education would be a prolonged struggle.

In conclusion, Brown v. Board of Education marked a pivotal turning point in American history by challenging the discriminatory practice of segregation in schools. The decision set a precedent for dismantling segregation in schools and ensuring that students of all races could learn and grow together in the same educational spaces. However, the lasting impact of the case also highlights the persistent challenges in achieving full equality in education, as issues of school equity continue to be relevant and addressed in the ongoing pursuit of a more just and inclusive society.

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Comprehension Questions

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

Multiple-Choice Questions:

1. What is the main focus of the Brown v. Board of Education case?

- a. Economic equality
- b. Racial segregation in schools
- c. Voting rights
- d. Gender discrimination

2. What was the verdict of the Brown v. Board of Education case?

- a. Schools should remain segregated
- b. Segregation is constitutional
- c. School segregation is unconstitutional
- d. The case was dismissed

4. Elaborate on the challenges faced in achieving desegregation in public schools after the Brown v. Board of Education ruling. What were some of the oppositions, and how was the process slow?

5. Chief Justice Earl Warren played a crucial role in the Supreme Court's decision on the Brown v. Board of Education case. Explain the significance of the unanimous decision and why the justices aimed for unanimity.

Answers Key

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the main focus of the Brown v. Board of Education case?
- Correct Answer: b. Racial segregation in schools

2. What was the verdict of the Brown v. Board of Education case?
- Correct Answer: c. School segregation violated the Constitution

3. Before 1954, what was the legal precedent for segregated schools?
- Correct Answer: b. Plessy v. Ferguson

4. Who was the representative plaintiff in the Brown v. Board of Education case?
- Correct Answer: b. Oliver Brown

5. What organization did Thurgood Marshall work closely with in the Brown v. Board of Education case?
- Correct Answer: c. NAACP

6. What did Thurgood Marshall become after his involvement in the Brown v. Board of Education case?
- Correct Answer: b. Supreme Court Justice

7. On what basis were the arguments in the Brown v. Board of Education case mainly built?
- Correct Answer: c. Fourteenth Amendment

8. What did the school districts argue in defense of segregation in the case?
- Correct Answer: c. The Fourteenth Amendment directly addresses

education

reme Court during the Brown v. Board of

c. Earl Warren

d the Brown v. Board of Education case have

b. Desegregation occurred slowly

QUESTIONS:

ditions in white schools and African American schools
v. Board of Education case. How were they

the schools had better facilities, buses, and equipment,
in American schools of ten received used books and
l. to school. This inequality was a key issue addressed in

ard Marshall's role in the Brown v. Board of Education
is involvement contribute to the case's significance?
Thurgood Marshall served as chief counsel for the
arguing against segregation. His work with the NAACP
becoming the first African American Supreme Court
highlighted the case's historical importance.
arguments made by the plaintiffs in the Brown v. Board
case regarding the Fourteenth Amendment. How did they
ignition to the constitutional principles of equal

The plaintiffs argued that school segregation violated
ad Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which
tees equal protection under the law. They contended that
African American students access to equal education was
institutional.

on the challenges faced in achieving desegregation in public
v. Board of Education ruling. What were some
er the Brown v. Board of Education ruling. What were some
ositions, and how was the process slow?
in Desegregation. Facing opposition, and many school
districts required the intervention of federal courts. Even a
ce after the ruling, schools weren't fully integrated.
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acterized the process.

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MCQ'S & QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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