Civil Rights Timeline with Activities

By: The Teacher Couple

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Use Only
Civil Rights Timeline – Teacher Guide

Overview: This timeline covers 12 key events in the Civil Rights movement. Students can use this timeline of events in a variety of ways to gain a better understanding of the Civil Rights movement.

Pages 3-6 – Comprehension Activities

Page 3 and 4 allow students to record the key events in their own words. The boxes can then be cut out and glued to paper to make a timeline. Page 4 provides students with the dates needed.

Page 5 allows students to analyze cause and effect relationships between events of the timeline.

Page 6 asks the students reflective questions about the timeline.

Pages 7 – 18 – Easy text version of the timeline

Pages 19 – 32 – Advanced text version of the timeline

Presenting the Timeline

Depending on the level of your students, there are a variety of ways to introduce the timeline to your students.

- For younger students, read the timeline together beforehand to build background. Discuss key words students need to understand.
- Timeline Gallery Walk – Post the timeline signs around the classroom. Have students walk around the room and record each event on the cut out cards. This provides good practice in identifying the main idea. Depending on your students, you may want to provide cards with or without the dates. Then have students cut out the cards and paste on a large piece of construction paper to make a timeline.
- Timeline Center – Provide laminated copies of the events in a center. Have students put in the correct order. Use the cut out cards for students to make their own timelines.

Credits:

Cover Background - The 3AM Teacher
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/The-3am-Teacher
http://the3amteacher.blogspot.com/

Cover Frame – The Middle Grade Maven
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Civil Rights Timeline – Cause and Effect Relationships

Directions: Analyze the timeline for pairs of events that had a cause and effect relationship. Explain each cause and effect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Civil Rights Timeline - Questions

Name __________________ Date ____________

Answer each of the following questions.

1. What event surprised you the most about the timeline? Why?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

2. If you could have been part of any event on the timeline, which one would you have been involved in? Why?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

3. How would you explain the idea of Civil Rights to someone?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

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Civil Rights Timeline: 
Easy Text Version
January 31, 1865

The Constitution is changed and slavery is ended in the United States.

President Abraham Lincoln was a very important part of ending slavery.
March 1, 1875

The Civil Rights Act is passed. This law says all African Americans should be treated equally.

The picture is John Mercer Langston. He helped write the act and was a member of Congress.

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November 26, 1883

The US Supreme Court ends the Civil Rights Act. They believe states should be in charge of their own laws. Many states in the South begin laws that are unfair to African Americans.

The picture is of John Marshall Harlan. He was the only person on the Supreme Court that did not agree with the change.
Eight year old Linda Brown lives a short walk away from a good school, but she is forced to go on a long bus trip to a school for African Americans only. Her parents file a lawsuit against the school. The case goes all the way to the Supreme Court.

1951

A segregated elementary school in Topeka.
May 17, 1954

All members of the Supreme Court rule that schools **cannot** be segregated. It is a famous case called *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.*

Before the case, every state in red required segregation. The states in green had already outlawed segregation.
December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. She is arrested. African Americans and others in Montgomery, Alabama boycott, or refuse to use, the bus system. Martin Luther King, Jr. leads the boycott. It lasts a year. Then people must be treated equally on the bus system.
September, 1957

The governor of Arkansas orders the National Guard to block nine African American students from going to Little Rock High School.

US President Eisenhower orders federal troops to make sure the African American students are allowed to enter.
Four African American college students start a sit-in at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. They would not leave until they were served. Many protests like this started across the South. After 6 months, they are finally served lunch.
May 4, 1961

Over 1,000 white and African American volunteers take bus trips through the South. Segregation is now illegal, but the volunteers still had to face many angry people and mobs. The volunteers were called the “Freedom Riders.”
More than 250,000 African Americans and whites march in Washington, DC for equal rights for African Americans. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

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Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act. Martin Luther King, Jr. looks on behind him.

July 2, 1964

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act which says discrimination based on race, gender, or religion is illegal. The act also ends unfair voting requirements.
April 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

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Civil Rights Timeline: Advanced Text Version
January 31, 1865

The Thirteenth Amendment is passed and slavery is officially abolished from the United States.

Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States during the Civil War. His actions were vital in ending slavery.

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March 1, 1875

The Civil Rights Act is passed guaranteeing all African American citizens the right to equal treatment in public and on public transportation.

Pictured is John Mercer Langston. He helped draft the act and was one of the early African Americans elected to Congress.
November 26, 1883

The US Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act unconstitutional saying the laws should be left up to individual states instead of the federal government. Individual states can now discriminate in any way they want against African Americans.

John Marshall Harlan, pictured above, was the only member of the Supreme Court who believed the Civil Rights Act should remain. He was nicknamed “The Dissenter.”
The parents of Linda Brown file a law suit against the Topeka, Kansas Board of Education. Linda lived within walking distance of a school, but she was forced to go on a long bus trip to a school for African Americans only. The case goes all the way to the Supreme Court.
May 17, 1954

The Supreme Court rules on the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. They unanimously agree that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

Before the case, all states in red required segregation. The states in green had already outlawed segregation.
Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat in the front of the "colored section" to a white passenger. She is arrested and the African American community of Montgomery, Alabama starts a bus boycott. The boycott is lead by Martin Luther King, Jr. The boycott lasts over a year before buses are officially desegregated.
Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus uses the National Guard to block nine African American students from entering Little Rock High School. President Eisenhower orders federal troops to integrate the school.
Feb. 1, 1960

Four African American college students start a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth’s counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. This event starts many similar nonviolent protests throughout the South. After 6 months, the protesters, which grew to hundreds, are finally served lunch.

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Over 1,000 white and African American volunteers spend the spring and summer taking bus trips through the South. Segregation was now illegal, but the volunteers, often college students, still had to face many angry people and mobs. The volunteers were called the “Freedom Riders.”
August 28, 1963

More than 250,000 African Americans and whites march in Washington, DC for equal civil and economic rights for African Americans. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.
Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act. Martin Luther King, Jr. looks on behind him.

July 2, 1964

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act which declares discrimination based on race, gender, or religion illegal. The act also ends unfair voting requirements.
April 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
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John Mercer Langston – public domain

John Marshall Harlan – public domain

Segregation Map – GNU Free Documentation License - AnonMoos

Elementary School in Topeka – Creative Commons 2.0 License – Trading Cards NPS

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Troops at Little Rock – public domain

Woolworth’s Counter - GNU Free Documentation License – RadioFan

Freedom Riders – public domain

March on Washington – public domain

Signing the Civil Rights Act – public domain

Martin Luther King, Jr. – Library of Congress