

Standing Up for Fairness: A Social Studies / History of Civil Rights

Learning objective: To understand the importance of civil rights and the actions taken by individuals to ensure equality for everyone.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use the information from the text to help you.

In the middle of the 20th century, many people around the world lived in societies where they were not treated equally. Civil rights are the basic freedoms and protections that every person should have, regardless of their skin colour, gender, or background. In some places, laws enforced segregation, meaning that people were kept apart in schools, on buses, and in public spaces simply because of who they were. This was deeply unfair.

Brave individuals began to stand up and challenge these unjust rules. They organised peaceful marches, gave powerful speeches, and campaigned for change. They wanted to ensure that every child could learn in the same classroom and that every person had the right to vote. Because of their hard work and courage, many laws were changed to ensure that society became fairer. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, says that learning about these moments is important because it reminds us to be kind and stand up for what is right. By working together, people proved that change is possible when we demand justice for everyone.

Word bank: Equality · Civil rights · Segregation · Justice · Campaign · Protest · Freedom

1. What does the term 'segregation' mean according to the text? (2 marks)

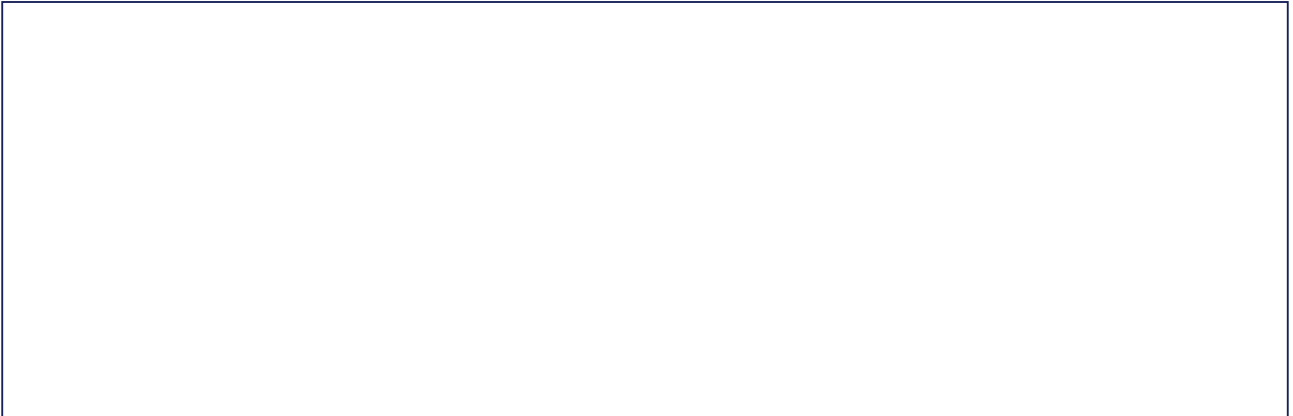
2. List two peaceful ways that people campaigned for change. (2 marks)

3. Why might people have felt that the laws were unfair during this time? (2 marks)

4. What can we infer about the people who took part in the marches and speeches? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for us to learn about civil rights history today? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a peaceful protest or a community working together to make their school or local park a fairer place for everyone.



Extension challenge: Research a person who fought for civil rights in history. Write a short diary entry from their perspective describing why they chose to stand up for fairness.