

Standing Up for Fairness: The Civil Rights Movement

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Civil Rights Movement and the importance of equality.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

In the mid-20th century, many people across the world fought for civil rights. In parts of the United States, laws existed that treated people differently based on the colour of their skin. This was called segregation, which meant that schools, buses, and public spaces were kept separate. Many people felt this was unfair and decided to take a stand. Brave individuals began to organise peaceful protests to demand equality and justice for everyone. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that this movement was not just about changing laws, but about changing how people treated one another. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about a dream where children would not be judged by their appearance but by their character. Through marches, speeches, and boycotts, they showed great courage in the face of adversity. Their peaceful efforts eventually led to new laws that made discrimination illegal. Today, we remember their hard work as a vital step towards a fairer society where everyone deserves the same opportunities, regardless of their background.

Word bank: segregation · equality · protest · justice · discrimination · courage

1. What was the main purpose of segregation in public spaces during this time? (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what methods did people use to protest for their rights? (2 marks)

3. Why does the text mention that the movement was about 'changing how people treated one another' rather than just changing laws? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'courage in the face of adversity' suggest about the people involved in the movement? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important to remember the history of the Civil Rights Movement today? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that promotes equality and fairness, using symbols or words that represent peace and unity.



Extension challenge: Research one other historical figure who fought for human rights. Write a short paragraph explaining what they did and why they are remembered.