

A Journey Towards Fairness: The Civil Rights Movement

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

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Use your best handwriting and full sentences where possible.

In the mid-20th century, many people in the United States lived in a society divided by segregation. This meant that people were often kept apart based on the colour of their skin. Public spaces, such as buses, schools, and parks, were separated, and laws were unfair. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that this was a time when brave individuals stood up to demand equality. Figures like Rosa Parks and Dr Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful protests to challenge these unjust laws. They believed that everyone deserved to be treated with the same dignity and respect. Through powerful speeches, marches, and persistent campaigning, they inspired a nation to change its laws. The Civil Rights Movement was not just a historical event; it was a testament to the power of unity. By choosing peace over violence, activists successfully fought to end legal discrimination. Their courageous actions paved the way for a fairer society, reminding us that justice is a goal we must always strive to protect for every person, regardless of their background.

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

1. According to the text, what did segregation mean in the mid-20th century? (2 marks)

2. Name two methods that activists used to challenge the unfair laws. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author describes the people involved in the movement as 'courageous'? (2 marks)

4. What might have happened if the activists had used violence instead of peaceful protests? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, why is it important to learn about the history of civil rights today? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster showing people from different backgrounds standing together in unity, including a symbol of peace or fairness.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the challenges faced by activists in the past with the challenges people might face when trying to make a positive change in their own school or community today. Write a short poem about the importance of equality.