

Voices of Change: A History of Civil Rights

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Civil Rights Movement and identify the impact of key figures in the fight for equality.

Use this scaffold to structure your historical report. Think about how individuals used their voices to challenge unfair laws. Use your word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Throughout history, brave individuals have stood up to challenge unfair rules in order to create a fairer world for everyone.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · courageous · inequality · justice · nevertheless · inspired by · significant impact · determination

1. Introduction: Define what civil rights are in your own words. You might start by saying: Civil rights are the basic rules that ensure every person is treated with fairness and respect... (2 marks)

2. The Challenge: Describe the unfair laws that people were protesting against. Explain why these laws were unjust by writing: People were treated differently because of their background, which meant that... (3 marks)

3. The Action: Explain the methods used to campaign for change. Start your paragraph with: To demand change, activists organized peaceful protests such as... (3 marks)

4. The Impact: How did these actions change society? You could write: These courageous actions had a significant impact because they led to... (3 marks)

5. Justification: Why is it important to remember these events today? Explain your answer by starting with: We must study these events because... (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise what you have learned. You might begin with: In conclusion, the fight for civil rights shows that when people work together, they can... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the methods used by civil rights activists to achieve change. Justify why peaceful protest is often considered a more effective tool for social reform than other methods. What might happen to a society if these courageous individuals had chosen to remain silent? Write a short speech from the perspective of an activist in the 1960s.