

Champions of Change: A Civil Rights Chronology

Learning objective: To understand the timeline and significance of key events and figures in the international struggle for civil rights, including the American Civil Rights Movement.

Ellie the elephant has been busy researching history! Below is a list of significant events from the 20th-century Civil Rights Movement. Your task is to place them in the correct chronological order (1 to 7) and then complete the critical thinking questions to deepen your understanding of why these moments changed the world.

Word bank: Segregation · Discrimination · Boycott · Equality · Justice · Integration · Protest · Legislation

1. Order these events chronologically (1-7): [] The Montgomery Bus Boycott begins; [] The 19th Amendment gives women the vote in the USA; [] Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat; [] The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; [] The Civil Rights Act is signed; [] Brown v. Board of Education ends school segregation; [] Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his 'I Have a Dream' speech. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott was an effective method of protest compared to a simple march. Consider the economic impact. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the concept of 'segregation' with 'integration'. How do these policies affect the daily lives of children in a school setting? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Was the passing of the Civil Rights Act the end of the struggle for equality, or merely the beginning of a new phase? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement had chosen to use violence instead of peaceful protest? Predict the potential outcomes for their cause. (3 marks)

6. Identify one modern-day example of a campaign that fights for equality or justice. How does it mirror the strategies used by activists in the 1950s and 60s? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Symbol of Unity' poster that represents the theme of equality. Think about how you can use shapes, patterns, and colours (inspired by Zara the zebra) to show people from different backgrounds standing together in harmony.



Extension challenge: Research a lesser-known local hero from your own country who campaigned for fairness or human rights. Write a formal letter to Ellie the elephant explaining why this person deserves a commemorative plaque in their hometown.