Striving for Equality: The Civil Rights Movement

Learning objective: To understand the significance of the Civil Rights Movement and the actions taken to challenge racial segregation and inequality.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of 20th-century history to provide detailed answers. Remember to explain your reasoning clearly.

In the mid-20th century, individuals and communities campaigned to end systemic discrimination and segregation. Through peaceful protests, speeches, and legal challenges, activists worked to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, received equal treatment under the law. This period of history highlights the importance of courage, unity, and the fight for human rights.

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

1. Ellie the elephant is studying history and wants to know: What is meant by the term 'segregation', and how did it affect the daily lives of people living in the United States during the mid-20th century? (3 marks)

2. Max the monkey has noticed a maths puzzle in a local history archive. If a bus fare cost £0.15 in 1955, and a protest group organised a boycott that lasted for 381 days, explain why a 'boycott' was considered an effective tool for economic and social change. (2 marks)

3. Why were peaceful protests, such as marches and sit-ins, preferred by many leaders of the Civil Rights Movement over other forms of demonstration? (2 marks)

4. Nova the owl is looking at the night sky and thinking about 'equality'. Define what equality means in a modern democratic society and give one example of a law that protects people from discrimination today. (3 marks)

5. Explain the significance of the phrase 'equal treatment under the law' in the context of the Civil Rights Movement. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that promotes the message of equality and peace. Think about symbols that represent unity and fair treatment for all, as Zara the zebra would do for her art project.

Extension challenge: Research a person who was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Write a short paragraph explaining one specific action they took that helped change laws or public opinion.