Civil Rights Movement Revision
To what extent was the USA an equal racial society in the 1930s?
Following the American Civil War, slaves were emancipated in 1865. This meant that slavery was abolished and that the law changed to give black people rights.

- Northern states where many Afro-Americans moved to.
- No legal segregation there.
- Industrial
  - Chicago, Detroit
- Southern states where the plantations had been.
- Legal segregation.
  - Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia.

Do you think that white people's attitudes towards black people changed in the Southern States when slavery was abolished?

Do you think all people in the USA want an equal racial society?
### Jim Crow laws

1. No white nurses are to work in a hospital where black people are being treated.

2. Black and white people will have separate waiting rooms for buses and trains.

3. In restaurants it is against the law to serve black and white people in the same room.

4. Black and white people should not marry.

5. Black people are not allowed to take books out of libraries.

6. If a black and white person are found living together (in a relationship) they may face 12 months in prison.

7. Black and white people shall have separate public drinking fountains.

8. There shall be separate schools for black and white children.

9. Black people must give up their seats on both trains and buses if a white person needs to sit down.

10. Anyone found printing books or leaflets about black peoples rights will be put in prison and fined.
Black people wanted to work hard to improve their situation. Their biggest weapon in their fight for equality was a good education. This was hard to get. Teachers in black schools earned less and schools were less well equipped.

*From a school text book published in 1999.*

---

*Interview extract from an interview with a woman who grew up in the Southern States in the 1930s. It is taken from a book written for school students.*

“Well, of course, we weren’t allowed to register to vote. Even though I was a schoolteacher for twenty years, I didn’t register to vote until the late sixties. There were a few black attorneys who would take on cases, but during the thirties and forties, black attorneys couldn’t practice in the courthouse. Their very presence in the courtroom was bitterly resented by many people.”

---

*Interviewer: What occupations were open to African-Americans as you were growing up?*

*Mrs. Barge: For women, aside from domestic work and labour like laundering, the only professions or trades were nursing and teaching. Of course, you only nursed or taught black people. Many women worked as cooks in private homes or restaurants, as maids in private homes or businesses. There were no black sales clerks in stores. Men worked in the mines, in factories, as delivery boys, carpenters, and bricklayers. They could operate elevators, but they couldn’t become firemen or policemen or salesmen. Some black men worked as tailors. Those who went into professions became doctors or dentists or principals or preachers within the black community.*

*From an interview with a Afro-American lady who grew up in the USA during the 1930s. Taken from the internet.*
What does the case of Emmett Till reveal about racial equality in the USA in the 1950s?

On 24 August 1955, Emmett Till went into a local store to buy some bubblegum. A 21-year-old white woman, Carolyn Bryant, was working there while her husband, the shopkeeper, was away.

Someone accused Emmett Till of whistling at Carolyn Bryant, as if he fancied her. Roy Bryant (Carolyn’s husband) and JW Milam took their revenge, in a way that soon made national and international headlines. They hunted for Emmett Till and found him.

Emmett Till was dragged from his bed at his uncle's home in a small Mississippi town, he was beaten so badly that his face was unrecognisable when the corpse was recovered from the river three days later. He had been shot in the head and his body tied to a 70lb (32kg) fan.
Additional reading - Emmett Till Murder

On August 19, 1955—the day before Till left with his uncle and cousin for Mississippi—Mamie Till gave her son his late father's signet ring, engraved with the initials "L.T." The next day she drove her son to the 63rd Street station in Chicago. They kissed goodbye, and Till boarded a southbound train headed for Mississippi. It was the last time they ever saw each other.

Three days after arriving in Money, Mississippi—on August 24, 1955—Emmett Till and a group of teenagers entered Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market to buy refreshments after a long day picking cotton in the hot afternoon sun. What exactly transpired inside the grocery store that afternoon will never be known. Till purchased bubble gum, and some of the kids with him would later report that he either whistled at, flirted with or touched the hand of the store's white female clerk—and wife of the owner—Carolyn Bryant.

Four days later, at approximately 2:30 a.m. on August 28, 1955, Roy Bryant, Carolyn's husband, and his half brother J.W. Milam kidnapped Till from Moses Wright's home. They then beat the teenager brutally, dragged him to the bank of the Tallahatchie River, shot him in the head, tied him with barbed wire to a large metal fan and shoved his mutilated body into the water.

Till's body was shipped to Chicago, where his mother opted to have an open-casket funeral with Till's body on display for five days. Thousands of people came to the Roberts Temple Church of God to see the evidence of this brutal hate crime. Till's mother said that, despite the enormous pain it caused her to see her son's dead body on display, she opted for an open-casket funeral in an effort to "let the world see what has happened, because there is no way I could describe this. And I needed somebody to help me tell what it was like."

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the defendants' guilt and widespread pleas for justice from outside Mississippi, on September 23, the panel of white male jurors acquitted Bryant and Milam of all charges. Their deliberations lasted a mere 67 minutes. Only a few months later, in January 1956, Bryant and Milam admitted to committing the crime. Protected by double jeopardy laws, they told the whole story of how they kidnapped and killed Emmett Till to Look magazine for $4,000.

Coming only one year after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education mandated the end of racial segregation in public schools, Emmett Till's death provided an important catalyst for the American Civil Rights Movement. One hundred days after Till's murder, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on an Alabama city bus, sparking the yearlong Montgomery Bus Boycott. Nine years later, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing many forms of racial discrimination and segregation. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act, outlawing discriminatory voting practices, was passed.
How far do you agree that the ‘Brown vs. Board of Education’ was a landmark case?

Who were the NAACP?
Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was one of the earliest and most influential civil rights organisation in the United States.

During its early years, the NAACP focused on legal strategies designed to confront the critical civil rights issues of the day.

The NAACP called for anti-lynching laws and organised a number of challenges to segregation in public schools. This led to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, which declared the idea of “separate but equal” to be against the law.
In 1896, the Supreme Court of the USA stated that black and white American could be ‘separate, but equal.’

The NAACP chose to target EDUCATION in order to show that facilities for black Americans were not equal.

Why did they choose EDUCATION to do this?
Linda Brown was born on February 20, 1942, in Topeka, Kansas, to Leola and Oliver Brown. Though she and her two younger sisters grew up in an ethnically diverse neighborhood, Linda was forced to walk across railroad tracks and take a bus to school despite there being a school much closer to her home. This was due to the elementary schools in Topeka being racially segregated, with separate facilities for black and white children. The nearby school was for white children only.

In 1950, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) asked a group of African-American parents that included Oliver Brown to attempt to enroll their children in all-white schools, with the expectation that they would be turned away. Oliver attempted to do so with Linda, who was in third grade at the time and was stopped from enrolling Linda at Sumner Elementary. The strategy was for the civil rights group to go to court on behalf of the 13 families, who represented different states.

With Brown's name at the top of the list, the case would be known as Brown v. Board of Education and be taken to the Supreme Court. The families and the NAACP argued that their children did not have access to the same quality of education as the white children in the area. The main lawyer working on behalf of Oliver Brown and the other African Americans was future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

**Winning 'Brown v. Board of Education'**

An aim of the case was to bring down the law set up by the 1896 decision of Plessy v. Ferguson, which created the idea of "separate but equal" facilities for different races of people. In 1954, this aim was achieved when the Supreme Court stated that the idea of 'separate, but equal' was racist. The Supreme Court also said that segregated facilities (like schools) did not give black American people and children to same fair experience in life. ‘Separate, but equal’ was not to be used by any states to create segregated laws anymore.

**What was the Brown vs. Board of Education case?**

Read through the case study and highlight or underline:

1. Examples of SEGREGATION
2. Examples of PROTEST

**EXTENSION: Why was it so important to remove the idea of ‘separate, but equal’?**
What was the most significant outcome of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56)?

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, refused to give her seat to a white man on a Montgomery bus. She was arrested and fined.

The Women’s Political Council (WPC), a group of black women working for civil rights, began giving out flyers calling for a boycott of the bus system on December 5, the day Parks would be tried in court.

On the afternoon of December 5, black leaders met to form the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). The group elected Martin Luther King Jr., the 26-year-old pastor of a local church, as its president and decided to continue the boycott until the city met its demands.
Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)

What were the Key features of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

- In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man.
- Martin Luther King organised a boycott of buses that lasted for 13 months until the bus company gave in.
- In 1956 the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was illegal. The boycott was important because;
  - It showed that black Americans were able to organise themselves.
  - It gained a great deal of positive publicity and showed that peaceful protests could work.
  - It inspired people and led other people to think that more things could be changed using these methods.
  - It saw the emergence of Martin Luther King as the most important leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
How significant was the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
1. Read through the cards and sort them into POSTIVE (+) outcomes and NEGATIVE (-) outcomes.
2. From the positive outcomes, decide which you think is the MOST SIGNIFICANT outcome and circle it!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Outcome</th>
<th>Negative Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. It was one of the first major wins of the Civil Rights movement.</td>
<td>2. It was only a local campaign. It took a long time, and only a small measure of equality was achieved (desegregation of the buses).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Black Americans could have great ECONOMIC power (money). During the boycott, the bus companies lost $250,000.</td>
<td>4. The boycott attracted a lot of media attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The boycott showed how effective peaceful protest could be.</td>
<td>6. The boycott began the career of Martin Luther King, who went on to start many more protest movements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. There was an increase in violence towards black Americans. A group tried to start a whites-only bus service. There was also a wave of bombngs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXTENSION:** Make a start on your level question...
What was the most effective method of student protest from 1957-1961?
The Little Rock campaign, 1957

**Key Information**

- In 1957, nine black students, with military protection, **went to a white school** in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Many white people in the area were still very racist, and did not want black children at their schools.
- After the protest, the Supreme Court again **said that segregation was illegal**.

**Detail**

In 1957, nine black students, backed by the NAACP, attempted to join an all-white school in Little Rock. The students were prevented from enrolling (joining) by a white mob and by the National Guard – who were called in by the governor, Orval Faubus.

Having got lots of media attention, President Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to protect the students and to allow them to enrol. Faubus then closed ALL schools in Little Rock claiming that desegregation would lead to racist violence.

**SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?**

- The case forced President Eisenhower to support the Civil Rights movement.
- It showed how racist and committed some White Americans were to segregation.
- It showed that peaceful protest could prove the problems in the law (everywhere was not desegregated).
Greensboro sit-ins, 1960

Key Information

- In 1960, four black students sat down at a lunch-counter, only meant for white people.
- The sit-in inspired many more people.
- The department store (where the lunch counter was) was desegregated. Black and white people could be served at the lunch counter.

Detail

In 1960, inspired by Martin Luther King, four black students attempted to force the desegregation of a lunch-counter in a Woolworth's store. The students, who were based in Greensboro, staged a sit-in, which lasted for several days. They just sat down!

By the fourth day, 300 students had joined the sit-in, and by the end of the week the store had closed the lunch-counter rather than desegregate. The Greensboro sit-in inspired similar sit-ins across the Southern states.

SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?

→ The Greensboro Woolworth's store was desegregated in May 1960.
→ By the beginning of 1962, 70,000 people, black and white, had taken part in some kind of protest against segregation.
→ Consequently, by the end of 1961, 810 towns in the Southern states had desegregated public places.
The Freedom Rides, 1961

Key Information

- On May 4, 1961, a group of 13 African-American and white civil rights activists started the Freedom Rides. They travelled from desegregated areas to segregated areas.
- These were a series of bus trips through the American South to protest segregation in interstate bus stations and on buses.
- The US government promised to support the Freedom Riders.

Significance and Effectiveness?

- There was lots of violence targeted at the Freedom Riders.
- The US government promised to enforce the desegregation of interstate buses and bus facilities.
- By 1961, all signs enforcing segregation had been removed from interstate transport.

Detail

During the campaign, seven black and six white activists took bus journeys across the South, encountering enormous white violence in the form of beatings and firebombs.

The Freedom Riders rode from desegregated areas to segregated areas. Martin Luther King spoke out against the violence, and in support of the Freedom Riders.
How should Martin Luther King Jr. be remembered in history?

In 1957, Martin Luther King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to fight for civil rights by peaceful marches and demonstrations.

In 1964, Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize for his use of non-violence and his social justice work for black Americans and oppressed people around the world. The third Monday in January in America is Martin Luther King Day, a national holiday.

In 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated. This led to a wave of riots that destroyed many black communities across American cities. Some of these communities never recovered. To this day, poverty, and violence and discrimination against black people continues.
In August 1963 civil rights campaigners organised the March on Washington and over 250,000 people heard Martin Luther King deliver his moving 'I have a dream' speech. This peaceful protest changed how the nation felt about civil rights and the Civil Rights Movement.

Young Civil Rights activists like Stokely Carmichael, who saw his colleagues jailed, beaten, and killed in Mississippi and Alabama, rejected Martin Luther King’s message of nonviolence: "I'm not going to let somebody hit me ... for the rest of my life and die,” he said as early as 1961. “You got to fight back!”

At first I thought I was going to be afraid, but the fear went. Dr King’s voice had a power like no one else’s. It wasn’t that we worshipped him. We didn’t. He wasn’t like that at all. But he could somehow make you leap without realising that you were leaping.

If you have weapons, take them home. ‘He who lives by the sword, dies by the sword.’ Remember that is what Jesus said. We are not supporting violence. We want to love our enemies. Be good to them, that is what we must live by. We must meet hate with love.
Why was Martin Luther King so important?

- Martin Luther King believed strongly in peaceful protest.
- He used methods such as giving speeches, marches and sit-ins in order to try and change things for Black Americans.
- He was also very good at dealing with politicians and so was able to successfully raise awareness of the Civil Rights Movement within Congress.
- Because he insisted on remaining peaceful, he was better able to persuade Presidents and Congress to go along with him.
To what extent was Malcolm X a ‘completely different’ civil rights leader to Martin Luther King?

Malcolm Little was born in 1926. When he was 6 years old, his father was murdered by white racists. Malcolm said that ‘Little’ was his slave name, so he stopped using it.

Malcolm’s mother had a mental breakdown and the children were moved to foster homes. Malcolm became involved in crime and spent time in jail. He eventually joined the Nation of Islam, an Islamic movement for Black Americans.

Malcolm X spoke about the need for action. He believed in militancy and fighting for freedom, a direct contrast to Martin Luther King’s message of peace. He also spoke about ‘separatism’ – he did not want to just be equal to white people, he wanted to be separate from them.
Malcolm X converted to the Nation of Islam while in prison, and upon his release in 1952 he abandoned his surname "Little," which he considered a relic of slavery, in favour of the surname "X"—a tribute to the unknown name of his African ancestors.

**Nation of Islam**

Now a free man, Malcolm X travelled to Detroit, Michigan, where he worked with the leader of the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad, to expand the movement's following among black Americans nationwide. Malcolm X became the minister of Temple No. 7 in Harlem and Temple No. 11 in Boston, while also founding new temples in Harford and Philadelphia. In 1960, he established a national newspaper, *Muhammad Speaks*, in order to further promote the message of the Nation of Islam. Articulate, passionate and a naturally gifted and inspirational orator, Malcolm X exhorted blacks to cast off the shackles of racism "by any means necessary," including violence. "You don't have a peaceful revolution," he said. "You don't have a turn-the-cheek revolution. There's no such thing as a nonviolent revolution." Such militant proposals—a violent revolution to establish an independent black nation—won Malcolm X large numbers of followers as well as many fierce critics. Due primarily to the efforts of Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam grew from a mere 400 members at the time he was released from prison in 1952, to 40,000 members by 1960.

By the early 1960s, Malcolm X had emerged as a leading voice of a radicalized wing of the Civil Rights Movement, presenting an alternative to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a racially integrated society achieved by peaceful means. Dr. King was highly critical of what he viewed as Malcolm X's destructive demagoguery. "I feel that Malcolm has done himself and our people a great disservice," King once said.

Malcolm X left the Nation of Islam in 1964.

That same year, Malcolm X embarked on an extended trip through North Africa and the Middle East. The journey proved to be both a political and spiritual turning point in his life. He learned to place the American Civil Rights Movement within the context of a global anti-colonial struggle, embracing socialism and pan-Africanism. Malcolm X also made the Hajj, the traditional Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, during which he converted to traditional Islam and again changed his name, this time to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. After his epiphany at Mecca, Malcolm X returned to the United States less angry and more optimistic about the prospects for peaceful resolution to America's race problems. "The true brotherhood I had seen had influenced me to recognize that anger can blind human vision," he said. "America is the first country ... that can actually have a bloodless revolution." Tragically, just as Malcolm X appeared to be embarking on an ideological transformation with the potential to dramatically alter the course of the Civil Rights Movement, he was assassinated.
What was the significance of the Selma to Montgomery march (1965)?
Even after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made segregation illegal, black people did not have complete equal rights. In the southern states (such as Alabama), black Americans faced violence when they tried to register to vote. In 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. and the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) decided to make Selma the destination of their ‘Voting Rights’ protest.

The local governor had stopped black people from registering to vote, and only 2% of Selma’s adult black Americans had managed to register to vote.

On February 18, white racists attacked a group of peaceful demonstrators in a nearby town. A state police man shot and killed Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young African-American protestor. In response to Jackson’s death, King and the SCLC planned a massive protest march from Selma to the state capitol of Montgomery, 54 miles away. A group of 600 people set out on Sunday, March 7. They were stopped by a group of Alabama police who used whips, batons and tear gas to push the protestors back to Selma. The brutal scene was captured on television, enraging many Americans and drawing civil rights and religious leaders of all faiths to Selma in protest.

King himself led another attempt on March 9, but turned the marchers around when state troopers again blocked the road. That night, a group of racists beat another protestor, the young white minister James Reeb, to death. 2,000 people set out from Selma on March 21, protected by U.S. Army troops and Alabama National Guard forces that Johnson had ordered under federal control. After walking some 12 hours a day and sleeping in fields along the way, they reached Montgomery on March 25.

On 17 March 1965, President Johnson passed a Voting Rights Act that gave all Americans (including black Americans) the right to vote. It also stated that the literacy tests were illegal.

**EXTENSION: Do you think the Voting Rights Act would stop racist attitudes?**
Did the Black Power movement help or hinder the civil rights movement?

The Black Panther Party believed that the non-violent approach of Martin Luther King had failed. Although they were an African-American group, they also fought for other ethnic minorities.

The Black Panther Party (BPP) had four desires: equality in education, housing, employment and civil rights. It had a 10 Point Plan to get its desired goals. They were ready to fight a war.

The Black Panthers came to the attention of the FBI. They described the Panthers as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country" and in November 1968 ordered the FBI to employ "hard-hitting counter-intelligence measures to cripple the Black Panthers".
The Black Power Movement:

What do we mean by Black Power?

The slogan Black Power became popular from 1966 onwards. It is a phrase that came to mean different things to different people, but they key ideas were:

- Blacks should take more responsibility, power and control in their own communities (e.g. set up their own businesses). They should not rely on white to give them rights, but take control themselves.
- A rejection of the non-violent tactics of the main Civil Rights Movement.
- More focus on social and economic issues (e.g. poverty) rather than political issues (e.g. Jim Crow laws).
- Blacks should study their own history and culture and that they should feel proud of being black. Slogans like "black is beautiful" formed a part of this.
- Some people believed in separatism - the idea that blacks should set up their own state without any white people. (N.B. this is very different to segregation!)

Why did the Black Power Movement develop in the 1960's?

- Many blacks felt that the pace of change was too slow. Young blacks in particular were frustrated that things were not changing fast enough.
- Even though Martin Luther King’s campaigns had achieved some great things, most blacks still faced poverty, discrimination and racism as part of their everyday lives.
- Many in the north saw King as irrelevant - he had focussed on ending segregation, but there had never been any segregation in the northern states. The issues there were different - e.g. poverty in the slums of the major cities.
- Many grew frustrated with the non-violent campaigns. They felt it was humiliating black people and was not bringing enough change fast enough.
**ACHIEVEMENTS: Did Black Power HELP or HINDER the civil rights movement?**

Produce the decision line in your book and place the NUMBERS on that line, demonstrating your understanding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Black Panthers openly spoke about the use and threat of violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Black Panthers set up 200 free health clinics, treating 200,000 people a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Black Panthers’ FREE BREAKFASTS FOR SCHOOLCHILDRE N programme fed 10,000 black children everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>In 1966, STAR TREK featured the first inter-racial kiss on colour television.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Black Panthers clinics encouraged investment in research to tackle sickle cell anaemia (a disease common in African-Americans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Liberation Schools increased black literacy and numeracy skills among black students, and encouraged the study of black history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>In 1972, the Government passed the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Act, granting government money for research and treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>In 1968, a black actress, Eartha Kitt, was cast as Catwoman in the television series BATMAN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>At the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, two black American athletes gave the Black Power salute during the medal ceremony for the 200m sprint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Huey Newton (the leader of the BPP) went to prison for murder. Another leader (Bobby Hutton) was murdered in a violent gun battle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXTENSION: How else could you categorise these cards? Can you think of any other themes?**
What did the Civil Rights movement achieve for Black Americans?

The Civil Rights Movement had some major successes. For Example;

- The end of segregation in public places.
- Many more schools are now fully integrated.
- Far more blacks now vote in elections.
- The first black mayor (Carl Stokes in Cleveland, 1968) was elected.
- Many black authors and actors have become very successful.

However:

- At least three quarters of the black population are still worse off than whites and rates of unemployment are higher for blacks than whites. Blacks still tend to have lower educational standards.
- Ghettos remain in many cities
- Although the outward signs of discrimination have been swept away, America is still a deeply divided society with racial problems.
Which President of the USA was most significant in changing the lives of black Americans?

From 1945 there were four presidents directly involved with the Civil Rights movement. They were Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B Johnson.

None of the presidents publically supported segregation. Also, none of the presidents completely supported the Civil Rights movement. Eisenhower was slow to support protestors at Little Rock; Johnson and MLK argued about the Vietnam War.

The US presidents were also distracted by other events. These were often outside of the USA; foreign policy. The Korean War and the Vietnam War attracted a lot of media attention. Tension was also increasing between the USA and the USSR (previously known as Russia).
Harry S. Truman

Key Information

- In 1948, Truman passed a law that said there could be no segregation in the government.
- In 1948, Truman began to end segregation in the army.
- Truman’s first ceremony as president was desegregated.

Detail

Truman felt that attacks on black Americans because of their race was wrong and that all men were equal, like the Declaration of Independence says. Truman also felt that segregation is bad for the American economy (making money) and should be stopped.

Truman tried to do some work to help the Civil Rights movement. For example he set up a group of people to investigate the lynchings (hanging of black people) and how to stop them. Truman also ended segregation in the military and people who worked for the government (civil servants).

Truman gave black Americans high-profile jobs, for example he made Ralph Bunche Ambassador to the United Nations.

SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?

- Truman did not make any changes from his investigations.
- He did desegregate the civil service and began to desegregate the army.
- Truman did not address segregation in education or healthcare.
Dwight Eisenhower

Key Information

- Eisenhower believed that passing laws did not stop racism.
- Eisenhower fully ended segregation in the army.
- Eisenhower did not want to work with civil rights leaders. He thought they were aggressive!

Detail

Eisenhower believed that passing laws would not end racism. He believed that racism would die out naturally over time.

Eisenhower was critical of black civil rights leaders – he said they were unrealistic and aggressive. Eisenhower did not think that it was his job to tackle racial discrimination in America.

Eisenhower decided not to give support to the Montgomery Bus Boycotts but he had to act on the Little Rock Nine because news reports were portraying him in a very negative and terrible way.

Eisenhower also ordered the complete desegregation of the Armed Forces. "There must be no second class citizens in this country," he wrote.

SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?

- Eisenhower believed black people needed to be patient and that change would come about naturally.
- He did fully desegregate the army.
- Eisenhower did not want to use his authority to tackle civil rights.
John F. Kennedy (JFK)

Key Information

- JFK wanted to help black Americans and use his powers to do so.
- JFK gave 5 black judges the 5 top jobs in the courts.
- JFK was assassinated (killed) in 1963, before any of his ideas could be properly completed.

SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?

→ JFK made big promises about civil rights when he was running for President.
→ When he became President, he was slow to act.
→ It was only after the March on Washington that he began to fully support the Civil Rights movement.

Detail

John F. Kennedy (JFK) was a Democratic president (similar to our Labour party). He promised to use federal government powers to improve everyone’s lives in America. However, as president he spent most of his time dealing with international events.

JFK disliked racism and wanted to help civil rights campaigners. Kennedy invited more black Americans than any other President to the White House and gave 5 black judges the 5 top jobs in the courts. He created a group to look at equal employment for all races.

In 1962, JFK set up the Voter Education Project. This helped black Americans to register to vote.

JFK was assassinated in 1963, before any of his ideas could be properly completed.
Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ)

Key Information

- LBJ passed lots of new laws to try and improve America. This was called his ‘Great Society’.
- LBJ passed the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.
- He began to focus more on the Vietnam War at the end of his career.

Detail

Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) was a Democratic president who became president after JFK was assassinated in 1963. Johnson declared a ‘war on poverty’ and passed lots of new laws to try and bring about a ‘Great Society’. His programmes and ideas relied on large-scale government funding, a strong economy and public support.

Johnson was 100% behind stopping segregation and wanted to give full civil rights to every citizen of America.

Johnson was determined to pass the Civil Rights Bill that JFK started. Johnson also made the decision to work closely with Martin Luther King Jnr. to pass the new Laws, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (this ended all segregation) and Voting Bill of 1965 (this gave everyone the right to vote in the USA).

SIGNIFICANCE and EFFECTIVENESS?

- LBJ passed the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965).
- Johnson supported Martin Luther King at the beginning of his career.
- Johnson became more concerned with the Vietnam War – and began to focus less on the Civil Rights movement.