



History Knowledge Organiser

Year: 8
Topic: Civil Rights
Half term: Summer 1

- The Civil Rights movement was a struggle for social justice throughout the 1950s and 1960s for Black Americans.
- They aimed to gain equal rights that would be protected and enacted by the United States law.
- Whilst the Civil War had abolished slavery, the discrimination against Black people continued.
- Black people could not use the same bathroom, hospitals, schools and often had to let a White person take their seat on the bus or let them cut in front of them in a queue.

- There were lots of events that helped to create equality for African Americans by the end of the 1960s with some notable ones in Alabama.
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides focused heavily on desegregating public transport.
- One of the catalysts for this movement was the lynching of Emmett Till.

Martin Luther King

- An American Baptist minister and activist who became the leader of the Civil Rights movement until he was assassinated in 1968.
- King believed in non-violent protesting and planned marches, sit-ins and speeches to gain equality for Black people.
- The most famous moment that King is remembered for is his 'I have a dream' speech where he outlines the life he hopes Black and White people can share alongside each other.



Malcolm X

- An African-American Muslim minister and activist.
- Malcolm X was known for being outspoken against King's non-violent methods and believed that retaliating with violence could sometimes be necessary.
- Malcolm X is heavily regarded as supporting black supremacy.
- Malcolm X supported separation over segregation.



Homework tasks

1. Learn the key words and their definitions.
2. Design your own KO using the knowledge gained in your lessons.
3. Choose one of the topics we have covered in this unit and teach a family member. Ask them to write a review of what you have told them.

Submit your homework to your class teacher for achievement points!

Civil Rights Act, 1964

- The Act prohibited discrimination in public places, provided integration of schools and other public spaces, and made employment discrimination illegal.
- This was the biggest Civil Rights legislation since Reconstruction.

Key Terms	
Segregation	Keeping someone or something apart from others.
Lynched	Murder for an alleged offense without trial.
Supremacy	Where you believe that one race is superior to another
Boycott	Withdrawing from a country, organisation or person as a protest for actions.
Assassinated	Murdering of someone by sudden or secret attack, usually due to political ideas.
Black Panther Party	A political organisation created to promote equality.
Civil Rights	The rights of a citizen to political and social freedom and equality.

Suggested Reading

We March by Shane W. Evans

The Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

The Help by Kathryn Stockett