

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 5–6

# The Civil Rights Movement

United States, 1954–1968

## Key dates

1954 — Brown v. Board of Education: Supreme Court rules school segregation unconstitutional.

1955 — Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat. Montgomery Bus Boycott begins.

1957 — Little Rock Nine: nine Black students integrate Central High School.

1960 — Greensboro sit-ins by four Black college students start a wave of nonviolent protest.

1961 — Freedom Riders ride interstate buses through the segregated South.

1963 — March on Washington. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers 'I Have a Dream'.

1964 — Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination based on race, sex, religion or origin.

1965 — Selma to Montgomery marches. Voting Rights Act passed.

1968 — Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis.

## Key figures

**Martin Luther King Jr.** Baptist minister and leader of nonviolent civil rights protest. Assassinated 1968.

**Rosa Parks** Refused to give up her bus seat in 1955, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

**Ruby Bridges** Six years old when she became the first Black child to integrate an all-white elementary school.



**Thurgood Marshall** Lawyer who argued Brown v. Board; later first Black Supreme Court Justice.

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**John Lewis** Civil-rights leader; led the Selma march, later a US Congressman for 33 years.

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**Malcolm X** Activist who advocated Black self-determination and faith. Assassinated 1965.

