

## The Jim Crow Laws

- Set up by white Americans in the south to introduce **segregation** (separation of blacks and whites in society);
- There were separate restaurants, cinemas, water fountains, toilets, swimming pools etc.;
- The whites said that it made life **'separate but equal'** for blacks and whites;
- It didn't. Black Americans had to live in separate neighbourhoods, worked low paid jobs (e.g. maids) and had poor educations preventing them from voting.

## After slavery...

- **Abraham Lincoln** freed all slaves in America with his **Emancipation Proclamation** in 1863;
- But, in southern states of America life didn't change that much; black Americans worked for low wages on cotton plantations;
- The **Ku Klux Klan** intimidated and lynched black Americans to keep them under control;
- Many black Americans moved to the northern states for better jobs and a freer life.

## Key individual: Martin Luther King

- King was a **pastor** (priest) who became famous after he worked with Rosa Parks to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955;
- **Beliefs:** Peaceful protest. King was a **Christian** and believed that non-violent protest was a "sword that heals" – he copied Mahatma Ghandi;
- **Character:** Showed organisation, patience and resilience. His house was fire bombed 3 times!
- **Famous for:** The march on Washington DC in 1963 which ended with his **'I have a dream'** speech to over 200,000 people;
- **Death:** Was **assassinated** by James Earl Ray, a white racist, in 1968;
- **Quotes:** "We must love our enemies or else the chain of reaction of evil will destroy us."



## Events that improved civil rights

**Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-6):** Rosa Parks and King led a boycott of buses (refused to use them) to end the segregation of blacks and whites on buses. It worked because the bus companies lost huge profits. The buses became fully mixed.

**Little Rock Nine (1957):** After a court case ruled that schools in Arkansas should become mixed, nine black students attended Little Rock High School. They faced fierce racism but hung on to graduate and set an amazing example.

**Septima Clark:** Septima Clark wanted to encourage black Americans to vote. But Americans had to pass a literacy exam to qualify and many black Americans couldn't read or write. Septima secretly taught them, hiding from the Ku Klux Klan who tried to stop her.

In **1964** the **Civil Rights Act** was passed. This meant that people in America couldn't discriminate others based on race, gender and religion. This got rid of the Jim Crow Laws. But things are still not perfect...it will not be until 2058 that black men earned the same as white men in the same job.

Year 8 Learn Sheet

Exam Week 2

## Black Civil Rights in the USA

Remember, you could be assessed on any topic you have studied so far!

**Civil Rights:** The **freedoms** enjoyed in a fair society; freedoms of speech, religion, movement, voting etc. Black Americans didn't experience these freedoms.

## The NAACP:

- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;
- Set up to improve the civil rights of black Americans;
- Members such as **Thurgood Marshall** fought for fairness in the courts.



## Taking it further

- Another violent protest group of the 60s and 70s was the **Black Panthers** led by Stokely Carmichael;
- Set up to perform surveillance on white police officers who beat up and sometimes murdered black Americans;
- Believed in **'black-nationalism'**; the idea that black Americans should live in a different country to white Americans.

