

## The Jim Crow Laws

- Introduced **segregation** (separation of blacks and whites) in the South;
- There were separate restaurants, cinemas, water fountains, toilets, swimming pools etc.;
- The whites said blacks were **separate but equal**;
- This was false. Black Americans had to live in **separate neighbourhoods**, worked **low paid jobs** (e.g. maids) and **poor education** stopped them voting.

## After slavery...

- **Abraham Lincoln** freed all slaves in America with his **Emancipation Proclamation** in 1863;
- The **Ku Klux Klan** scared and lynched black Americans to keep them under control;
- Many black Americans moved to the northern states for better lives.

## Key individual: Martin Luther King

- King was a **priest** who worked with Rosa Parks to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955;
- **Beliefs:** Peaceful protest. King was **Christian** and believed that non-violent protest was a "sword that heals";
- **Character:** Showed organisation, patience and resilience. His house was fire bombed 3 times!
- **Famous for:** The march on Washington DC in 1963 where 200,000 people heard his '**I have a dream**' speech;
- **Death:** Was **assassinated** by James Earl Ray, a white racist, in 1968.

## Key Events

**Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-6):** Rosa Parks and MLK refused to use buses, to end segregation on them. It worked because the bus companies lost money. The buses became fully mixed.

**Little Rock Nine (1957):** A court said that schools in Arkansas should become mixed, so nine black students attended Little Rock High School. They faced fierce racism but eventually succeeded.

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

In **1964** the **Civil Rights Act** was passed. Now people in America couldn't discriminate others based on race. This got rid of the Jim Crow Laws. But things are still not perfect...it will not be until 2058 that black men earn 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.

## 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.



## Key individual: Malcolm X

- X gave himself this surname to replace his 'white surname' Little. X's father was killed by the Ku Klux Klan when he was a boy;
- **Beliefs:** X turned to an extreme group, the **Nation of Islam**, who believed in violent protest and that blacks were better than whites. X later converted to peaceful ideas;
- **Character:** X was clever and persuasive. He showed that a person can change their ideas;
- **Famous for:** Leading the violent protest movement and boosting the membership of the Nation of Islam, adding **Muhammad Ali!**
- **Death:** Was **assassinated** during a speech in a revenge attack by old friends from the Nation of Islam.



## 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.

