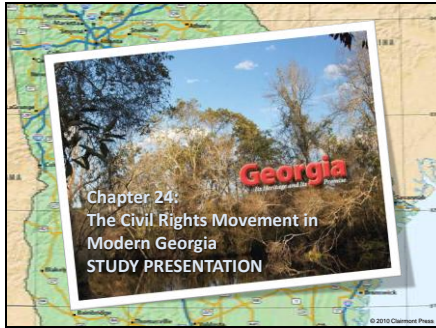
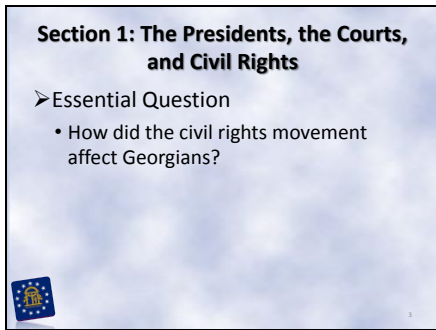


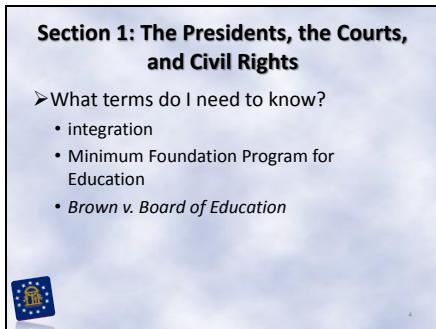
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Harry Truman and Civil Rights


- President Harry Truman established the Committee on Civil Rights to make recommendations for changes in the conditions of African Americans.
- In 1948, Truman ordered the desegregation of the armed services and the executive departments of the national government.
- The South's military bases would become **integrated**. Georgia had many bases and was strongly affected by this change.
- During Truman's presidency the courts made decisions more favorable to civil rights.



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Brown v. Board of Education


- The **Minimum Foundation Program for Education** (1949), was designed to improve schools, particularly black schools. Governor Herman Talmadge did not want to have to admit blacks to whites-only schools.
- In Georgia, a 1953 constitutional amendment would have allowed the state to shut down the public school system to prevent **integration**.
- In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the separate-but-equal concept for schools was unconstitutional.
- The *Brown* case was based on the important argument that black children were getting an unequal education. The NAACP brought in research that showed that segregation had a negative impact on the psychological and social well-being of children.
- The court said that "separate" was inherently unequal, and that the act of requiring separation made African Americans unequal.




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White Response: "Massive Resistance," Acceptance, and Support

- In 1956, southern white members of the U.S. Senate and House wrote the "Southern Manifesto" attacking the *Brown* decision.
- The Georgia legislature changed the flag of Georgia in 1956 to include the Confederate battle flag as a show of defiance.
- Georgia's governors during the 1950s, first Marvin Griffin, and then Ernest Vandiver, insisted that no blacks would attend school with whites in Georgia.
- The Sibley Commission of 1960 recommended that the closing of schools or integrating of schools be left up to local school boards.




The Georgia flag as it appeared before 1956. Image: Georgia Secretary of State



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The Desegregation of Atlanta Schools

- In 1959, a federal court ordered Atlanta to desegregate its public schools.
- A group of mostly white mothers formed HOPE, Help Our Public Education, to try to keep the legislature from closing Georgia's public schools.
- The Georgia legislature's Sibley Commission held meetings across the state, allowing citizens to voice their opinions about desegregating the public schools. The commission left it to local school boards to determine whether or not to integrate or close schools.
- Atlanta's schools integrated peacefully in 1961, but in some other places, such as in Augusta, the courts acted to facilitate desegregation.





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The Desegregation of the University of Georgia

- Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter were the first two African Americans admitted to the University of Georgia.
- Holmes wanted to become a doctor. Hunter desired to become a journalist.
- Initially, their applications were rejected, but after several attempts and legal action, a U.S. District Court judge ordered that they be admitted to the University in 1961.
- The courts ordered UGA to protect them.

Both Holmes and Hunter (today Hunter-Gault) eventually graduated and achieved successful careers.




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Section 2: The Grassroots Civil Rights Movement

➤ Essential Question

- How did grassroots activities advance the civil rights movement?




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Section 2: The Grassroots Civil Rights Movement

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- sit-in
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act




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Early Efforts

- In 1944, students from Savannah State College staged a demonstration against Jim Crow laws by sitting in all the seats of a city bus. They refused to get up when whites got on.
- In Atlanta, soldiers returning from World War II service asked for jobs on the police force.
- Dr. Thomas Brewer of Columbus organized African Americans to challenge the voting system in court. Thousands of Georgians began registering to vote. Dr. Brewer was killed in 1956, after threats from the KKK.






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Buses and Nonviolent Resistance

- By 1959, after bus protests, boycotts, and court challenges to Jim Crow laws, Atlanta's African Americans could ride the city's buses and sit where they wished.
- Student **sit-ins** occurred at segregated lunch counters in the South during 1960. This included an Atlanta sit-in led by Lonnie King and Julian Bond.
- Sit-ins resulted in agreements to desegregate lunch counters in 1961.
- Atlanta Mayor William B. Hartsfield worked with African American leaders to peacefully desegregate Atlanta schools in 1961.




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Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

- The Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 brought Atlanta minister Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into the Civil Rights movement.
- King and fellow ministers founded the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** and moved its headquarters to Atlanta in 1957.
- The SCLC movement centered on nonviolent resistance to the Jim Crow system. Its philosophies fit well with its leaders' belief in Christian teachings.
- Dr. King and the other early SCLC leaders were influenced by Dr. Benjamin May, the longtime president of Morehouse College.




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Students and the Civil Rights Movement

- The Atlanta-based **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** included white and black college students. Julian Bond and John Lewis (later a U.S. congressman) were early SNCC leaders.
- The SNCC worked effectively to desegregate public places. Many faced arrest for their efforts, such as staging sit-ins.
- "Freedom rides" began in the summer of 1961, in which buses of black and white students rode together through the South. White mobs in Alabama attacked the students.
- Integrated groups kept riding the businesses throughout the summer.




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The Albany Movement

- SNCC hoped to register African Americans to vote in Albany, in southwest Georgia.
- Police arrested hundreds after the Albany Movement formed to protest discrimination.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his assistants were among those arrested.
- The SCLC leaders learned important lessons for the civil rights movement from the Albany experience.
- The movement began a process of bringing African Americans more power.






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Civil Rights and the March on Washington

- After repeated violence against African American protesters in Birmingham during 1963, President John Kennedy urged Congress to pass a civil rights bill.
- 250,000 Americans, black and white, marched on Washington and heard music and speakers.
- Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, calling for Americans to "make real the promises of democracy" and calling for justice and equality.
- President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, but President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which made segregation and discrimination in public places illegal.
- The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and gender. The act said discrimination in any projects that used federal money was illegal.


 The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was established as part of the act.

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Resistance to Civil Rights

- In many areas of the South, resistance to the civil rights movement resulted in violence.
- In 1963, civil rights worker Medgar Evers was assassinated in Mississippi. Three young men working on voting registration drives in Mississippi in 1963 were also killed.
- In 1964, Lieutenant Colonel Lemuel Penn was shot and killed on his way home from Fort Benning to Washington, DC. Two members of the KKK in Athens were later convicted on federal charges of conspiracy based on the Civil Right Act.




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Voting Rights and Changing Politics

- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 made literacy tests and other methods designed to limit voting registration illegal.
- The U.S. Justice Department had to approve any changes to state voting laws.
- To insure that southern states followed the law, federal registrars oversaw voting registration and the voting process.
- Black voter registration increased immediately in Georgia and throughout the South. The number of African American office holders began to increase.




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Andrew Young

- Georgian Andrew Young served as a U.S. Congressman, beginning in 1972. He was the first African American to serve in Congress since the Reconstruction period.
- Young later served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations during the Jimmy Carter Administration. He was a two-term mayor of Atlanta during the 1980s.
- Young also co-chaired the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games, which brought attention to Atlanta as an international city.




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Maynard Jackson

- Maynard Jackson became mayor of Atlanta in 1973, the first African American mayor of a major southern city.
- He significantly increased contracts for minority-owned businesses and made Atlanta an attractive city for upwardly mobile minorities.
- A major project during Jackson's mayoral term was creation of a new terminal at Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport, increasing its capacity.
- He and other leaders helped Atlanta to win the honor of host city to the 1996 Olympic Games.




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Accomplishments

- In 1961, the Lockheed-Georgia plant, which built military planes, became the first major corporation in Georgia to work out a desegregation plan with the national government. This was a first step to more job equality in Georgia.
- Cities and towns took down the "White" and "Colored" signs that told people where they could and could not go.
- Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., elected in 1962, was a leader in desegregating Atlanta's businesses. He hired black firefighters and gave black police officers the right to carry out their duties with all citizens.



Signs such as these began to disappear in the 1960s as segregation gave way to integration. Image: Library of Congress

➤ Dr. King was honored at a dinner in Atlanta in 1964 for winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Both black and white leaders attended.



Additional Notes:

