

Chapter 12

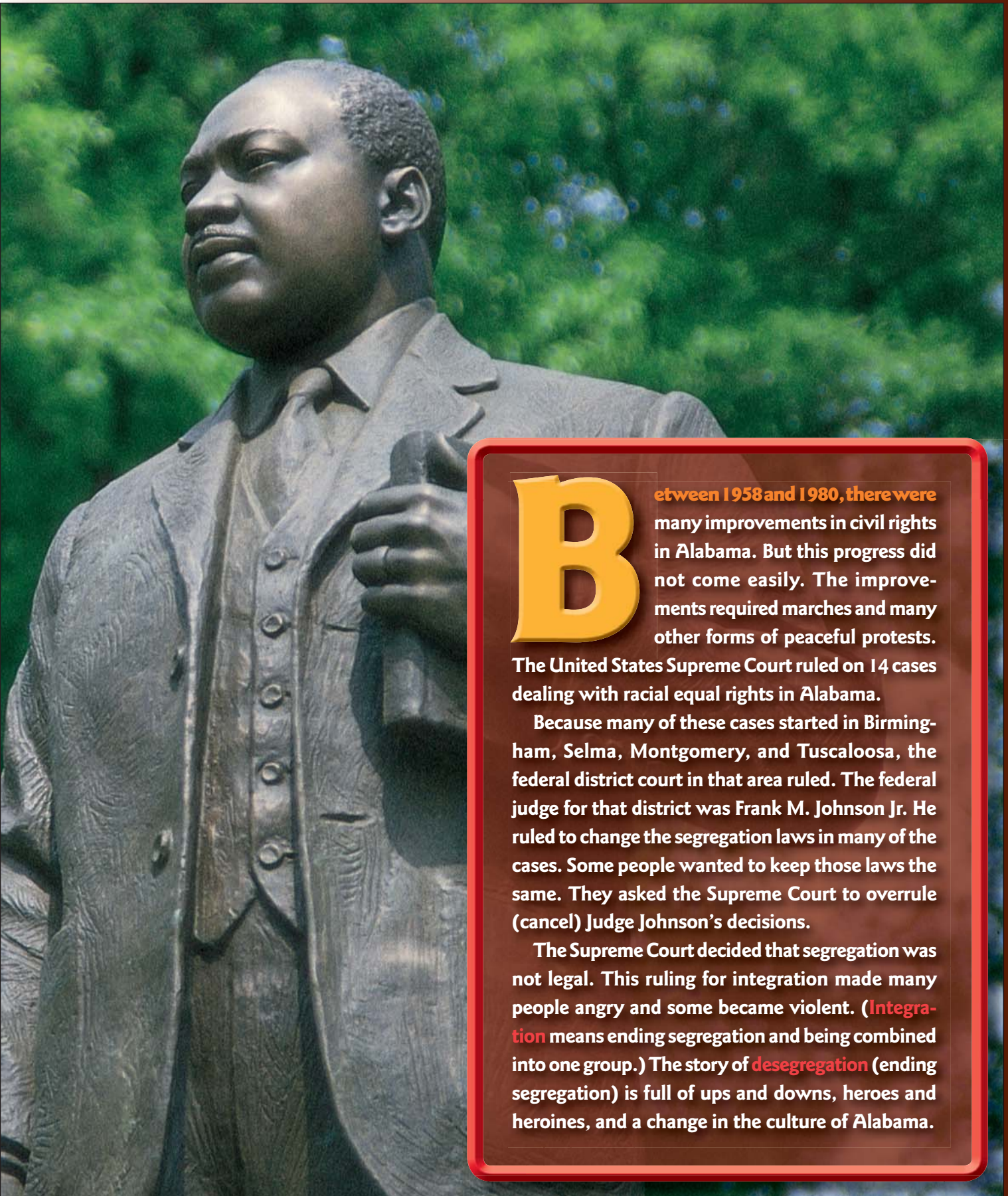
The Civil Rights Movement

Chapter Preview

TERMS

integration,
desegregation, facility,
NAACP, discriminate,
prejudice, deliberate,
boycott, nonviolent, sit-in,
terminal, symbol

Right: *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. rose to fame for his leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott. He would go on to lead the national civil rights movement and win the Nobel Peace Prize. This statue of Dr. King is in Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham, where many protests took place. It is next to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.*



Between 1958 and 1980, there were many improvements in civil rights in Alabama. But this progress did not come easily. The improvements required marches and many other forms of peaceful protests.

The United States Supreme Court ruled on 14 cases dealing with racial equal rights in Alabama.

Because many of these cases started in Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa, the federal district court in that area ruled. The federal judge for that district was Frank M. Johnson Jr. He ruled to change the segregation laws in many of the cases. Some people wanted to keep those laws the same. They asked the Supreme Court to overrule (cancel) Judge Johnson's decisions.

The Supreme Court decided that segregation was not legal. This ruling for integration made many people angry and some became violent. (**Integration** means ending segregation and being combined into one group.) The story of **desegregation** (ending segregation) is full of ups and downs, heroes and heroines, and a change in the culture of Alabama.

Focus on Reading Skills

Conducting an Interview

Learning

An interview is a meeting where one person asks another person questions. It could be a formal thing like a job interview. Reporters for television news do interviews too. Think about interviewing a person who lived during some of Alabama's historic events. The person's answers can give us new information. Below are steps to follow in doing an interview. These things will help you get the information you need.

1. Call or visit the person that you want to interview. If they agree to talk with you, set up a time for the interview.
2. Before your meeting, write your questions. You might start with *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* questions.
3. Write or record the person's answers. You should always ask the person if it is all right to do this.

4. When you are finished, thank the person for the information.
5. Soon after the interview, go over your notes or listen to the recording. You may remember another point that was not included.

Practicing

Interview a relative or family friend who has lived in your area for some time. Ask the person about local citizens who have done important things in the area. Perhaps someone got a park cleaned up or a community center built. Write the names of the people and their actions. Be sure to find the main facts: *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how*. Bring the information to class to share.

Below: *If you were a motorsports reporter, you would get to interview drivers after the race.*



Section I

The Struggle for Equality

As you read, look for

- how early civil rights history changed the state;
- what “separate but equal” means;
- what *Brown v. Board of Education* decided;
- the result of the Montgomery bus boycott;
- who was Rosa Parks;
- who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;
- terms: **facility, NAACP, discriminate, prejudice, deliberate, boycott, nonviolent, sit-in.**

Figure 23
Timeline:
1950 to 2010



<p>1963 Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombed</p> <p>1961 Freedom Rides</p> <p>1956 Montgomery bus boycott</p>	<p>1979 Richard Arrington elected first black mayor of Birmingham</p> <p>1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March</p>	<p>1980 Oscar Adams became first black Alabama Supreme Court justice</p> <p>2001 Men convicted of church bombing <i>Carry Me Home</i> by Diane McWhorter won Pulitzer Prize</p>	<p>2010 Former state trooper pled guilty to shooting Jimmie Lee Jackson</p>
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1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
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<p>1954 U.S. Supreme Court ordered school desegregation</p> <p>1956 U.S. Supreme Court ordered desegregation of Montgomery buses</p>	<p>1962 U.S. Supreme Court ordered desegregation of interstate travel</p> <p>1964 Civil Rights Act ruled segregation in public places illegal</p> <p>1965 Voting Rights Act passed</p> <p>1967 Laws passed outlawing discrimination in housing</p>
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Below: After *Plessy v. Ferguson*, scenes like this one were common in the South. The “separate but equal” facilities were always separate, but they were almost never equal. **Opposite page:** W. E. B. Du Bois was a leader of the Niagara Movement. He and Booker T. Washington had very different ideas on how to get equal rights for blacks.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees all American citizens their civil rights. After the Civil War, African Americans were still denied their rights in much of the South. To solve these problems, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments were added to the Constitution. These amendments had strong language defining the rights of citizens.

“Separate but Equal”

The Constitution states that everyone has the same rights. That was hard for many white people in Alabama to accept. In 1896, a case to test the 14th Amendment went to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court ruled it was legal for blacks and whites to have *separate* facilities as long as the facilities were *equal*. (A **facility** is a place that offers services such as restrooms, schools, or transportation.) This court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, was a guide for laws for more than 50 years.

In Alabama, this meant black people could not go to school or eat in restaurants with white people. Blacks had to sit together in “colored” sections of buses, trains, theaters, and ballparks. Water fountains in public places were marked for “colored” or “white.”



Jim Crow laws were used to enforce segregation. Facilities for blacks were usually separate, but they were often not equal. Most schools for black students were poorly supplied and not well maintained.

Civil Rights Organizations

African American leaders began working for equal rights before 1900. They soon learned they could make more progress by working in groups.

Education for Black Alabamians

Booker T. Washington wanted blacks to educate themselves. He believed that whites would soon accept successful blacks as equals. In 1884, while speaking to the National Education Association at a meeting in Wisconsin, he said:

Brains, property, and character for the Negro will settle the question of civil rights. . . . Good school teachers and plenty of money to pay them will be more potent in settling the race question than many civil rights and investigating committees.

The Niagara Movement

W. E. B. Du Bois (pronounced Du Boyce), a professor at Atlanta University, did not agree with Washington. In 1905, he met with other black educators and business leaders. The group met secretly near Niagara Falls. They became known as the Niagara Movement. At their first convention, they published this goal:

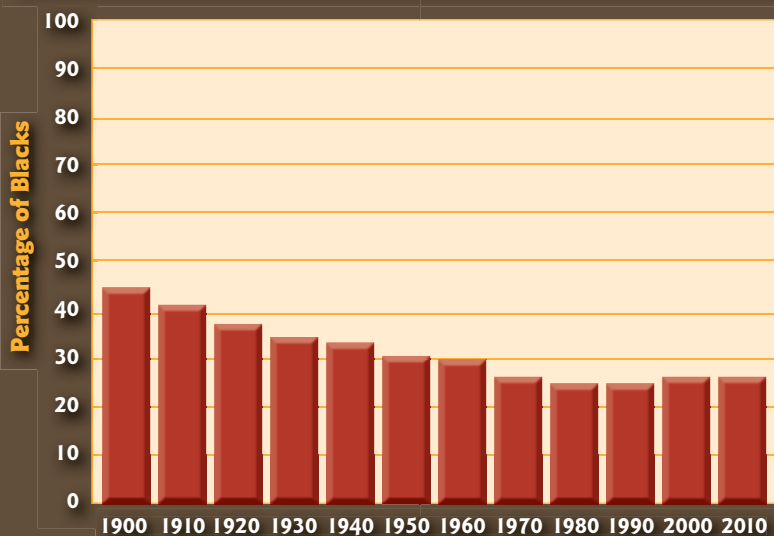
We will not be satisfied with less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every right that belongs to a free-born American—political, civil and social—and until we get these rights, we will never cease to protest . . . We want full manhood suffrage and we want it now.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

The **NAACP** grew out of the Niagara Movement. The goal of the NAACP was, and still



Figure 24 Alabama's Black Population 1900-2010



Source: U.S. Census, Special Report: Demographic Trends

is, to work for the rights of black Americans. Chapters of this organization were started all across the United States. By the mid-1940s, Alabama had 35 NAACP branches and nearly 15,000 members. In 2009, the NAACP celebrated its 100th birthday.

Many black people moved to cities or to the North or the West. The work of leaders like Washington, Du Bois, and others began. All over the country, many people began to understand the problems of segregation. As more black people moved to the cities, they became important voters. A nationwide movement for civil rights began to form.



Above: Governor Folsom was probably the first Alabama governor to speak positively about civil rights for blacks.

Taking a Stand against Discrimination

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered an end to segregation in defense industries. After Roosevelt's death, President Harry Truman issued two orders. One order made it illegal to **discriminate** (treat differently and unfairly) against blacks who were seeking federal jobs. This kind of discrimination occurs when people are denied their rights because of prejudice. (**Prejudice** is an opinion that is not based on looking at the facts fairly.) Truman's second order ended segregation in the armed forces.

Alabama Governor James E. "Big Jim" Folsom spoke about civil rights in 1949. In an address to the state legislature, Governor Folsom said:

In a democracy...a person who exercises full rights of citizenship should be allowed to vote....We are gradually affording the Negro opportunity to make substantial contributions.... We must strengthen...opportunity for them. We must remember—that which is built upon prejudice or ill will cannot survive in a democracy.

Toward Full Civil Rights

In the South, the move toward full civil rights for blacks began almost as soon as the Civil War was over. Many persons and groups made bits of progress. But real changes began after World War II. That is when the civil rights movement tested school segregation.

Brown v. Board of Education

In 1950, Linda Brown, a black girl, tried to enroll in an all-white school in Topeka, Kansas. When she was not allowed to do so, the NAACP helped her father sue the Topeka Board of Education. Thurgood Marshall was an attorney for the NAACP.

He argued this case before the United States Supreme Court and won. Later, Marshall became the first African American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

This case, known as *Brown v. Board of Education*, reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1952. In May 1954, the Court ruled that separate-but-equal schools were against the law. States were ordered to integrate schools “with all deliberate speed.” (**Deliberate** means carefully thought out.)

Sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court at that time was Alabama’s own former U.S. senator, Hugo Black. Justice Black voted with the rest of the Court to strike down racial segregation in public schools. He had a record for voting for civil rights according to the U.S. Constitution. Many people in his home state were very angry with Justice Black.

Some states were slow to do what the Court ordered. Autherine J. Lucy was admitted briefly to the University of Alabama in February 1956. The admission was ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court. Lucy was in the forefront of black students enrolling in all-white state universities. The 26-year-old Lucy already had a



Above: President Roosevelt appointed Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1937. At that time, Black was a U.S. senator from Alabama. Some people were worried because he had once belonged to the Ku Klux Klan. As a justice, Black voted with the majority on many important civil rights decisions, including *Brown v. Board of Education*.



degree from Miles College. She worked as a teacher. She wanted a degree in library science. Within only 3 days, rallies became loud and threatening. Many people came to the campus to stop the integration of the university. Security officers kept Lucy away from classes. She was expelled for criticizing the university.

The University of Alabama overturned her expulsion in 1991. Autherine Lucy Foster got her

master's degree. Three of her four children have attended the University of Alabama. Mrs. Foster said, "I love this university and I love Alabama." Her portrait is in the Ferguson Center to celebrate her contribution to desegregation.



Montgomery Bus Boycott

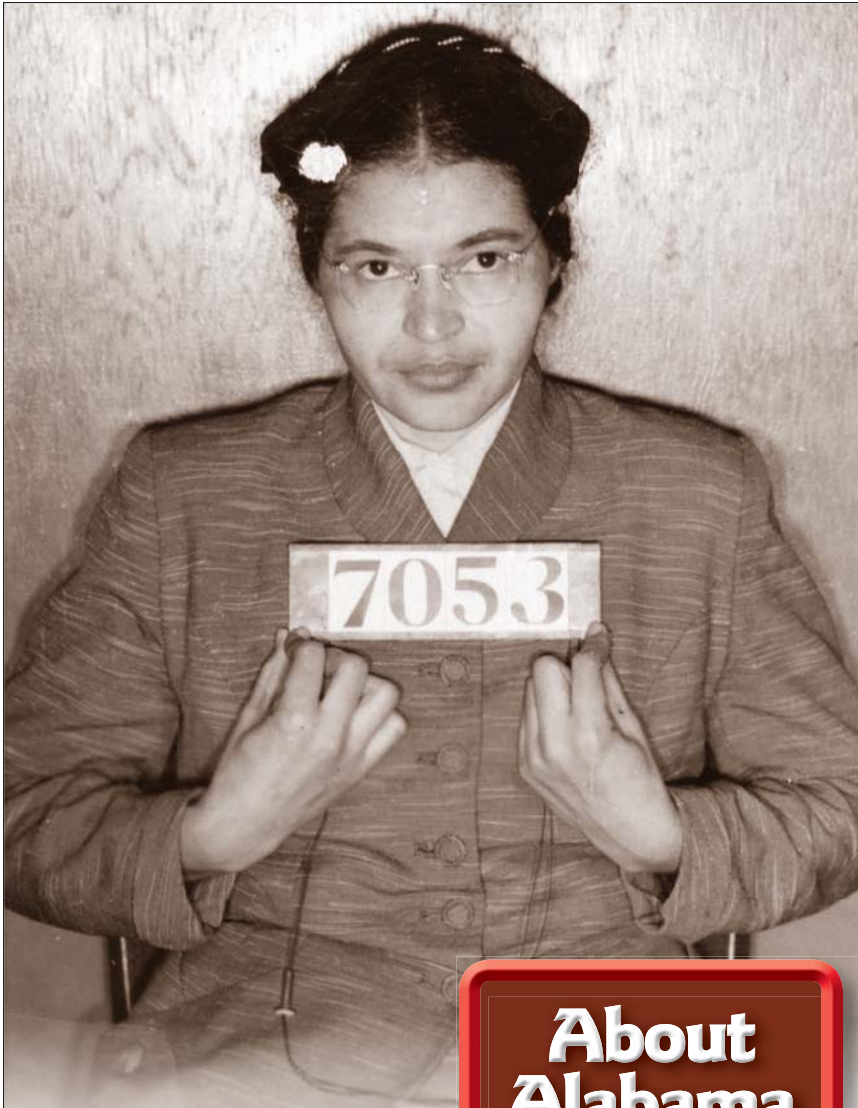
It was in 1955 that a very tired black woman named Rosa Parks got on a city bus in Montgomery. She sat down in the first empty seat. At a later stop, some white men got on the bus. The driver told Mrs. Parks to move to the back of the bus. She refused. The driver had her arrested. She was charged with breaking segregation laws.

E. D. Nixon, a leader in the Montgomery NAACP, got Parks out of jail. Nixon thought it was time to call his city's attention to the rights of black people. Ralph D. Abernathy was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery. He and Martin Luther

King Jr. were close friends. Reverend Abernathy and other black ministers formed the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). They asked the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to lead the group.

On Sunday, December 4, 1955, King and Abernathy met with other black ministers. They gathered with the Alabama State College faculty and other leaders. This group asked black Montgomery citizens to not ride the city buses. These bus riders had to find another way to travel. Some walked and others

Top: Autherine Lucy leaves the courthouse with her two lawyers. Next to her is NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall. In front of Marshall is Birmingham lawyer Arthur Shores. **Above:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership of the bus boycott brought him national attention.



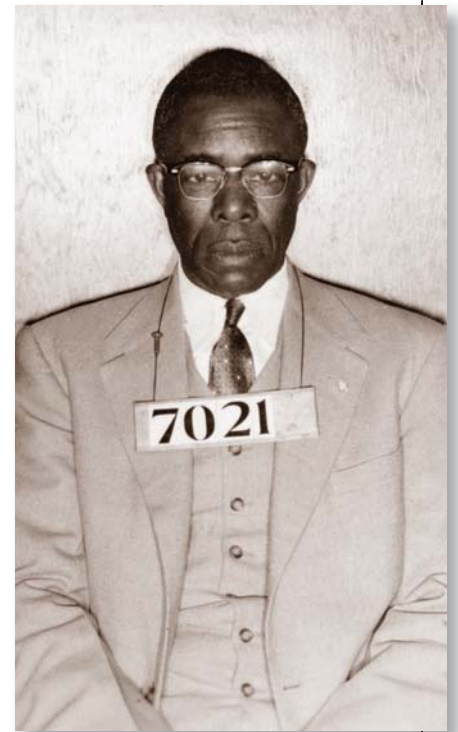
got rides with friends or people willing to help. Car pools were also formed to provide transportation. Some people provided rides for a year. They all wanted to be sure that Montgomery's black citizens were treated with courtesy on city buses.

The bus boycott lasted over a year. (A **boycott** is a refusal to use goods or services.)

It was an important step in the civil rights movement. In December 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional (illegal).

About Alabama

Rosa Parks died on October 24, 2005, at age 92. Her body lay in repose in Montgomery, Alabama, and Detroit, Michigan. She was the first woman to lie in honor in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.



Montgomery city leaders tried to stop the bus boycott by making it illegal. These mug shots of Rosa Parks (left) and E. D. Nixon (above) were taken when they were arrested for taking part in the boycott.



About Alabama

The Civil Rights Memorial (above) in Montgomery was created by Maya Lin. She also designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Successes Lead to More Civil Rights Actions

The success of the bus boycott encouraged Alabama blacks to boycott segregated restaurants, theaters, and stores. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became known all over the nation for his leadership in the civil rights struggle.

Dr. King asked people to work against segregation in **nonviolent** (without violence; peaceful) ways. In addition to boycotts, people conducted sit-ins at segregated facilities. In a **sit-in**, people would just sit in an area so others could not sit there, or as a protest. There were very few hotels or motels where black travelers could spend the night. To let white people know they needed a place to stay, blacks would sometimes enter a hotel lobby and just sit.

You can visit the Rosa Parks Library and Museum at Troy State University in Montgomery. The Civil Rights Memorial is near the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. This striking black granite sculpture honors the 40 black and white Americans killed in the civil rights movement between 1954 and 1968.

Think It Through!

1. Which amendments to the U.S. Constitution guarantee equal civil rights?
2. Explain “separate but equal.”
3. What group grew out of the Niagara Movement?
4. What federal court case ordered the desegregation of public schools?
5. How do boycotts gain rights?

Spotlight on Change

Segregation Remembered

Helen Shores Lee grew up in segregated Birmingham after World War II. Her father was Arthur Shores, a civil rights lawyer. He was the first African American to serve on the Birmingham City Council.

Helen wrote about her experiences in *An Alabama Scrapbook: 32 Alabamians Remember Growing Up*. She recalled the segregated drinking fountains, separate lunch counters, and racist phone calls. She also recalled the first time she realized there was a barrier between black and white.

I was about seven years old and our family was out for the traditional Sunday drive . . . we must have been driving out toward Bessemer because we went past the Kiddieland at the state fairground. It was lit up like some kind of fairyland; the... place was swarming with children... I could smell the cotton candy and hear the music.

I remember begging Dad to take us there. I wanted to go to Kiddieland so badly I could hardly stand it. But my father said no. We couldn't go there now, because only white people could go to Kiddieland. But, he assured us, one day we would



be able to go. I cried and got mad and pouted and said that I wished I was white. I remember to this day exactly what my father said: "Never wish to be white, chickadee. Just wish to go."

Helen graduated from high school and enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She was determined never to return to Birmingham. She married her husband, Robert, in 1962 and moved to California.

Visits home convinced Helen that things were changing in Birmingham. She recalled, "My mother even reported to me proudly during one visit that she'd taken my children to Kiddieland."

The Lees moved back to Birmingham in 1971. After her return, Helen said, "I'm glad my children are growing up in Alabama, near their grandparents, near their history. And I'm proud of what Birmingham and Alabama—and the South—have become." Helen Shores Lee became a Birmingham attorney. She also served as chairperson of the Alabama Ethics Commission and as a Jefferson County Civil Circuit judge.

Section 2

Progress Overcomes Violence



Above: *Ralph D. Abernathy was born in Linden, Alabama. He was a much-admired leader of the civil rights movement, second only to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

As you read, look for

- what is voter registration;
- the SCLC;
- Freedom Riders;
- the letter from Birmingham Jail;
- the first black students at the University of Alabama;
- how the church bombing changed leaders' minds;
- what rights the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ordered;
- terms: **terminal**, **symbol**.

Blacks in other parts of the country saw what was happening in Alabama. Soon the civil rights movement spread to other states. In 1957, Dr. King became president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Ralph D. Abernathy became the secretary/treasurer of the group. Later, Reverend Abernathy served as the vice president of the SCLC. This group began a voter registration drive for blacks throughout the South.

Boycotts and sit-ins were beginning to work. Some places that had only served white people began to allow blacks to use their facilities. John Lewis was a civil rights worker from Troy, Alabama. He organized sit-ins and other nonviolent activities.

Freedom Riders

Freedom Riders, who were both black and white, came to Alabama from other states in 1961. They wanted to protest segregation in bus stations in the South. The waiting rooms,



restrooms, and restaurants were segregated. John Lewis was a founding member of the SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee). Lewis and other students joined with the Freedom Riders.

Near Anniston, a group of angry people burned one of the Freedom Riders' buses. There was also violence in bus stations in Birmingham and Montgomery. John Lewis was attacked by a

mob in the Montgomery bus terminal. (A **terminal** is a place with waiting rooms and a place to buy tickets.)

Reverend Abernathy and his congregation welcomed the Freedom Riders for a rally. A mob of angry people gathered around the church. The mob threw rocks and shouted threats.

Violence was not new to Reverend Abernathy. His home and church had been bombed four years before. A civil rights leader, Reverend Thomas Gilmore, said, "Ralph David Abernathy was tough as iron." Activist Andrew Young said, "He was a source of strength to us all."



Top: When the Freedom Riders reached the Montgomery Greyhound Station, they were attacked and beaten. The station is now a civil rights museum. **Above:** A Freedom Riders' bus was attacked and burned near Anniston.

Below: Birmingham minister Fred Shuttlesworth (left), Ralph Abernathy (center), and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the march through Birmingham. The police response was violent.

To stop the violence, U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy sent federal marshals to Montgomery. President John F. Kennedy said:

The Attorney General has made it clear that we believe that everyone who travels, for whatever reasons they travel, should enjoy the full constitutional protection given to them by the law and the Constitution.



Segregation ended on buses, trains, and airplanes that traveled between states. It also ended in terminals such as those at bus and train stations. By 1962, U.S. Supreme Court rulings ended all segregation related to public travel.

Civil rights leaders then began to challenge the segregation of all public places. Many whites wondered why blacks were pushing hard to reach their goals. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. answered when he said:

For years now I have heard the word “wait”! It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This “wait” has almost always meant “Never.”

About Alabama

The Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport is named for Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. In 1956, he founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. This civil rights hero was called a crusader and a warrior for justice.

1963—A Year of Violence

The year 1963 was a violent one in the civil rights struggle. Alabama was at the center of much of the struggle. The world was watching. Pictures of the conflicts in Alabama’s streets were seen all over the world.

Birmingham March

On April 12, 1963, Dr. King, Reverend Abernathy, and Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth led a march through the streets of Birmingham. Police used dogs, fire hoses, and tear gas to try to stop the march. Soldiers and state troopers were also sent to turn back the marchers. The homes of some blacks, including Reverend Shuttlesworth, were bombed. Churches and Dr. King’s office were also attacked with bombs. Many people, including the leaders, were jailed.



In a letter written while in the Birmingham Jail, Dr. King said:

Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities.

The Famous “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door”

On June 11, 1963, two black students wanted to attend the University of Alabama. They were Vivian Malone and James A. Hood. The federal government ordered the school to admit the students. However, Governor George Wallace made a speech about states’ rights. He stood in the doorway of one of the school’s buildings. He was trying to show that he wanted to stop the integration of the school. The U.S. deputy attorney general was there too, along with U.S. marshals. He told the governor to step aside and Wallace did so. The students were allowed to enroll. In 1965, Vivian Malone was the first black student to graduate from the University of Alabama.



Top: In 1963, Governor George Wallace tried to stop James Hood and Vivian Malone (above) from enrolling at the University of Alabama.



Justice Served

The death of the four little girls in Birmingham in 1963 was not forgotten. In 1977, Robert Chambliss was tried and convicted for the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (above). But police knew other men were involved in the crime. Finally, in 2001, U.S. Attorney Douglas Jones brought Thomas Blanton and Bobby Frank Cherry to trial for the crime. Both men were found guilty and sentenced.

Violence in Birmingham

On September 15, 1963, during Sunday school, a bomb exploded in Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Four school-age girls were killed in the bombing. Several other children were hurt. The girls killed that day were Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley.

Later, someone shot and killed 13-year-old Virgil Lamar Ware. He was riding on the handlebars of his brother's bicycle at the time. This shocking violence brought 800 black and white ministers in Birmingham together. They attended the funeral service for 3 of the girls. Dr. King spoke at the service. Black and white leaders in Birmingham got together to find ways to end the violence. During this time, some whites came to realize that integration was the right thing. They supported it. But sometimes they were threatened with violence for wanting segregation to end. Conditions changed slowly in Alabama and the South.

Nobel Peace Prize and Another Voice

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was recognized all over the world for his role in helping black Americans get their full civil rights. At age 35, Dr. King was the youngest person ever to receive this honor.

Dr. King and other civil rights leaders believed in nonviolent ways to end segregation. But there was another voice with a different message heard in the country.

Malcolm X was a member of a group called the Black Muslims. (This was a group active during the civil rights time. But it had different beliefs from other groups and religions.) Born as Malcolm Little, he changed his last name to X. He did this as a symbol of slavery having stolen his identity. (A **symbol** is one thing that stands for another.)

At first, Malcolm X fought for separation of the races. He did not want the races to be together. The Black Muslims expelled Malcolm. He then changed his thinking and believed that integration was the correct way to go. He was assassinated in 1965 at a rally to unite African Americans. Three members of the Black Muslims were convicted of his murder.

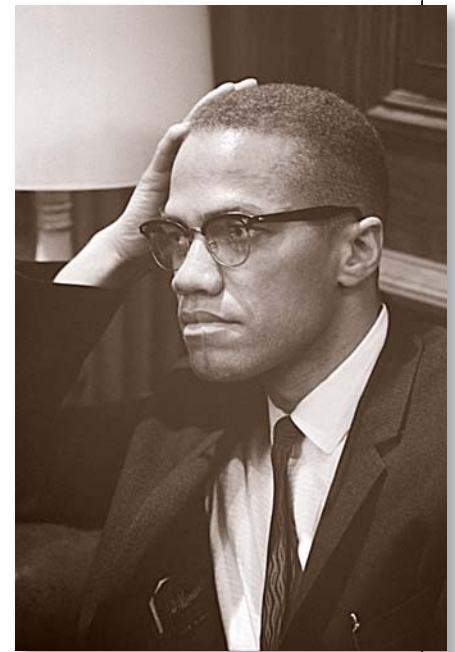
Civil Rights Act of 1964

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This ended segregation in public places such as theaters, motels, and restaurants. The Civil Rights Act also made it unlawful to discriminate in hiring practices. Employers could no longer refuse anyone a job because of race.

Today, you can visit the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham to learn more about the struggle for equality. The city's Kelly Ingram Park was the assembly point for many civil rights protests. Sculptures in the park show some of the events in the civil rights movement.

Think It Through!

- 1. Why did the Freedom Riders come to Alabama?**
- 2. How was the Birmingham March especially violent?**
- 3. Which Alabama governor tried to block black students from entering the University of Alabama?**
- 4. What violent act in Birmingham brought city leaders together?**
- 5. What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bring to an end?**



Above: *Malcolm X was a member of the Nation of Islam, more commonly called the Black Muslims. Their views were much more radical than Martin Luther King's.*

About Alabama

Diane McWhorter from Birmingham won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for a book on the civil rights movement. It is called *Carry Me Home, Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution.*

Section 3

Voting Rights and the Road to Change

Below: On March 7, 1965, 600 protesters met at the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma to begin a march to the Capitol in Montgomery. Their cause was voting rights.



Opposite page: Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson (with a child on his shoulders) leads marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the anniversary of the original march.

As you read, look for

- the goal of the Selma-to-Montgomery March;
- what Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. did for the civil rights movement;
- the Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a big step toward equality.

But it was not the end of the job. There were still laws needed so that all Alabama citizens could vote and live where they chose.

Voter Registration

The Alabama Constitution of 1901 had requirements for voting. These rules made it hard for nearly all blacks and many poor whites to vote. Dr. King's next goal was to increase voter registration. To gain support, he met with people from all areas of the nation. They met at Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Selma.

Selma-to-Montgomery March

Get the weapons of nonviolence, the breastplate of righteousness, the armor of truth, and just keep marching.

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

John Lewis and Hosea Williams gathered 600 marchers in Selma. They wanted to bring attention to the cause of voting rights. The march was also in protest of the shooting death of



a young activist, Jimmie Lee Jackson. A state trooper shot the 26-year-old man during a peaceful protest in Marion, Alabama. In 2010, the trooper, James Bonard Fowler, was charged with shooting Jackson. Fowler pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter and was given a 6-month jail sentence.

The organizers planned a march from Selma's Brown Chapel AME Church to Montgomery. The day of the march, March 7, 1965, is now called "Bloody Sunday." The march began without official permission. Hundreds of marchers reached the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Alabama state troopers and sheriff's deputies met the marchers on the bridge. The officers attacked the marchers with clubs and tear gas. Over 50 people were injured when they tried to cross the bridge. Pictures and television coverage of the violence against the marchers upset many Americans. One of those upset by the images was President Lyndon Johnson.

Two days later, James J. Reeb, a white minister, was attacked and beaten by white men in Selma. Reverend Reeb was helping in the voting rights work. He later died from injuries he received.

Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. watched the CBS news report on "Bloody Sunday" and made his decision. Judge John-

About Alabama

Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. made many legal decisions in favor of the civil rights movement. In 1995, Judge Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The federal courthouse in Montgomery is named for him, and he is in the Alabama Hall of Fame.



Top: The marchers made it on their final attempt to go from Selma to Montgomery. This was because of protection from Alabama National Guardsmen, FBI agents, and U.S. marshals. **Above:** The Lowndes County Interpretive Center tells the whole story of the march. It has photographs, films, and audio recordings. The center is on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in White Hall.

son gave Dr. King permission to begin the march on March 21. President Lyndon Johnson sent federal troops to protect the marchers.

Around 300 people walked the 50 miles to Montgomery. About 25,000 marchers walked up Dexter Avenue to the Capitol. The march received national and world-

wide attention. This awareness led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act gave the federal government the job of helping blacks in their struggle for suffrage. Within 4 years, the number of black voters increased from 23 percent to 61 percent.

Another victim of the violence surrounding the march was Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. She was a white woman from Michigan. Liuzzo drove to Alabama to help with the march. A Klansman shot and killed her on March 25, 1965. To honor her, there is a marker on U.S. Highway 80 in Lowndes County where she was killed.

The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is located at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. There you can see historical photos and newspaper clippings. The museum also has handwritten memories of the marchers and workers.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This gave all adult citizens the right to vote. States could still make their own rules for voter registration. Those rules could not take away rights granted by the United States Constitution. For example, citizens no longer had to pass a reading test in order to register to vote.

Milestones in the Struggle

There were important gains in the next years in the civil rights movement. But there was also a terrible tragedy.

Civil Rights Act of 1968

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 added new laws to help blacks find housing. These laws stated that no one could be denied housing because of race.

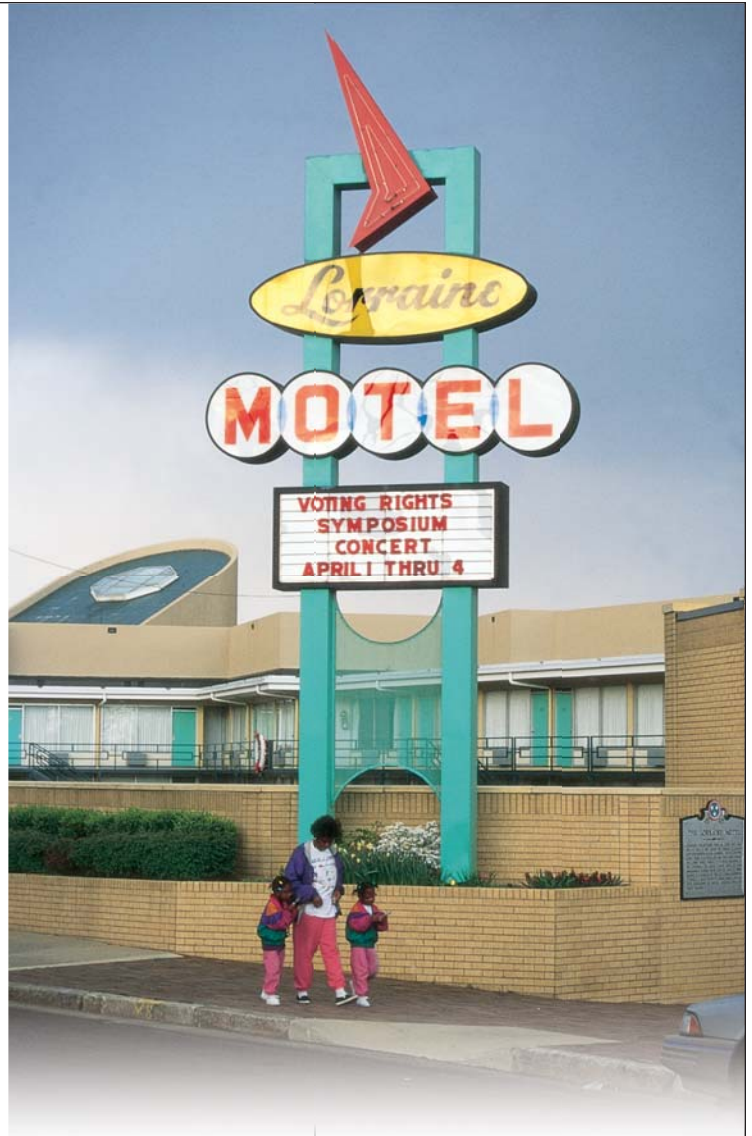
The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King was in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968. He was there to help sanitation workers in a labor dispute. There had been threats on his life before, but Dr. King said:

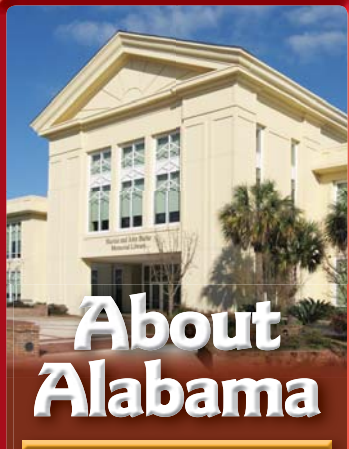
It really doesn't matter what happens to me now because I've been to the mountain top...and I've looked over and seen the promised land. I may not get there with you.... But we, as a people will get to the promised land.... Like anybody, I would like to live a long life.... but I'm not concerned about that now.

The next day, 39-year-old Dr. King and Ralph D. Abernathy were on the balcony of a Memphis motel. They were talking with Jesse Jackson, who was standing below. A shot from a high-powered rifle left Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dead.

James Earl Ray was convicted of Dr. King's murder. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray died in prison in 1998.



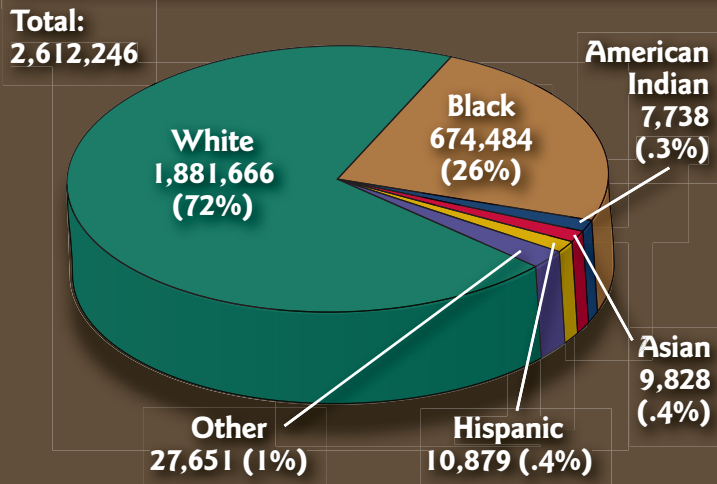
Above: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death while standing on the balcony of this motel. The Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, has been kept as it was at that time. It is now a civil rights museum.



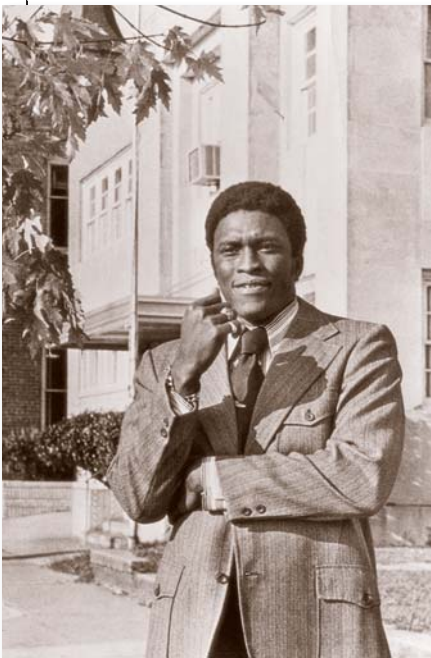
About Alabama

Spring Hill College near Mobile admitted nine black students in 1954. That was ten years before other southern colleges integrated.

Figure 25 Registered Voters in Alabama 2010



Source: Alabama Secretary of State (Percentages rounded)



Above: Johnny Ford was elected mayor of Tuskegee in 1972. He was the first black mayor in Alabama.

Times Have Changed

In 1956, Alabama had 53,340 registered black voters. That number grew to 593,718 in 2003. And by 2010, the state had 674,484 registered black voters.

In 1956, most Alabama students attended segregated schools and had teachers of their own race. Today, the public schools and colleges in Alabama are integrated. Teachers and students—black and white—attend school and work together.

Finally, Changes in Our Culture

Johnny Ford of Tuskegee was elected the state’s first black mayor in 1972. Today, hundreds of blacks serve in many offices, both local and statewide. They serve as coroners, sheriffs, tax collectors, and tax assessors. There are blacks on city councils and county commissions. Blacks in Alabama are judges, superintendents of education, and members of the state legislature.

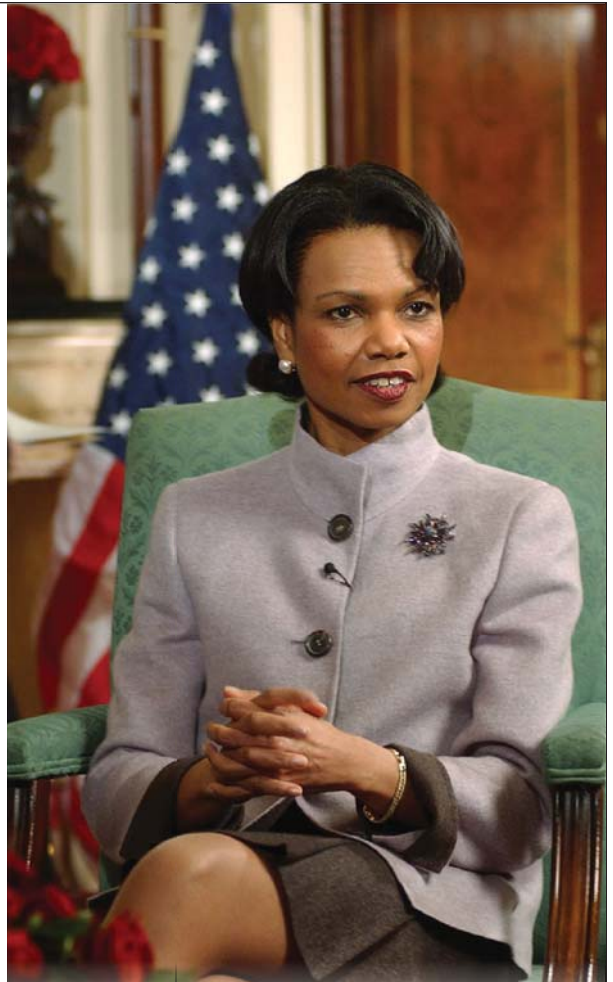
In the late 1970s, George Wallace, former segregationist, apologized for his views and actions that slowed civil rights for black people. During his fourth term as governor (1983-1987), Wallace appointed a record number of blacks to government jobs.

Black Women Continue to Break Barriers

In 2003, Bernard Kincaid, the mayor of Birmingham, appointed Deputy Chief Annetta Nunn to the office of police chief. Chief Nunn was the first female chief of police in the history of the department. She graduated valedictorian of Jackson-Olin High School and magna cum laude, University of Alabama.

Condoleezza Rice was born in Birmingham in 1954 during segregation. She went on to hold high government offices. She is the daughter of Presbyterian minister Reverend John Wesley Rice and his wife, Angelena Ray. Her name, Condoleezza, comes from a musical term that means “with sweetness.” Dr. Rice became a professor, diplomat, author, national security expert, and the 66th U.S. secretary of state.

Dr. Regina Benjamin was a country doctor in Bayou La Batre. There she worked with poor people who could not pay for medical care. Dr. Benjamin fought to rebuild her clinic after Hurricanes Georges and Katrina destroyed it. Then the clinic burned and she rebuilt it again. President Barack Obama chose Dr. Benjamin to be the “nation’s physician” as the U.S. surgeon general.



Think It Through!

- 1. What happened on the first Selma-to-Montgomery March?**
- 2. Who were the two federal officials who helped make the second march successful?**
- 3. In the Civil Rights Act of 1968, what right was enforced?**
- 4. What happened to Dr. Martin L. King Jr. in 1968?**
- 5. How has the number of black Alabama voters changed since 1956?**
- 6. How has the election of black officials changed since 1970?**

Top: Condoleezza Rice was the 66th U.S. secretary of state.

Above: Dr. Regina Benjamin is U.S. surgeon general.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois were two early civil rights leaders. The NAACP worked for the rights of all black Americans. The events we know most about took place after World War II.

Beginning with *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, federal courts ruled on laws to ensure full civil rights for blacks. Congress passed laws ending segregation. President Truman ordered an end to discrimination in federal jobs and the armed services. Many people worked for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s. Autherine Lucy was the first black student to enroll at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Montgomery. This led to the Montgomery bus boycott. The leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph D. Abernathy during the bus boycott placed them in the national spotlight.

Boycotts and sit-ins began to work. Freedom Riders forced an end to segregation on public transportation. John Lewis, Hosea Williams, and Dr. King led the Selma-to-Montgomery March. They wanted to draw attention to the need for voting rights for all citizens. The march led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Just four years later, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Today, citizens of all races can vote and schools are integrated. Blacks are elected to political offices at all levels.



Remember

On a separate sheet of paper, write a definition for each of the following words. Put enough information to show that you understand the word.

1. Boycott
2. Discriminate
3. Nonviolent
4. Prejudice



Reviewing the Facts

1. What do the letters NAACP stand for?
2. Who ordered an end to segregation in the armed forces?
3. Who said, "...that which is built upon prejudice or ill will cannot survive in a democracy."?
4. How did Rosa Parks break a segregation law?
5. Who was the major civil rights leader in Alabama and the nation during the 1950s and 1960s?
6. What did the Montgomery bus boycott bring about?
7. Why was the Selma-to-Montgomery March held? What did it bring about?



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. Why do you think a boycott works?
2. If you were going to plan a march, list the steps that you would take before the march could begin.



Making Decisions

1. Review the civil rights events during the 1950s and 1960s covered here. Which one do you think was the most important? Why?
2. Why is violence a poor decision?



Projects

1. Make a mural of famous events in civil rights history.
2. Draw famous civil rights leaders and write a caption for the pictures.



Writing

Use your school's media center to find information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or another civil rights worker. Then write a report. Give your report to the class. Or write an article for the school newspaper.



Preparing for Tests

- Multiple Choice*—These questions are like those you may see on tests. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.
1. Which of the following was the main goal of the civil rights movement?
 - A. Allow blacks to sit anywhere on buses
 - B. Register blacks to vote
 - C. Give women the right to vote
 - D. Have everyone treated equally

2. In which book would you most likely find information about Rosa Parks?
 - A. Recipes of Great Alabama Cooks
 - B. Civil Rights History of Alabama
 - C. Horoscopes of the Rich and Famous
 - D. Great Women of the World 1600-1700



Using Technology

You are going to find out more about the Montgomery Bus Boycott at archives.state.al.us/timeline/index.html. Click 1951 – PRESENT in the timeline. Read the entries for years 1954, 1955, and 1956.

Under the 1956 entry, Click Montgomery bus boycott and select the Quick Summary. Read the information and answer these questions.

1. How long did the Montgomery bus boycott last?
2. How old was Martin Luther King Jr. at that time?
3. How many black Montgomery citizens took part in the boycott?