

Knowledge Organiser - Year 5 — History: USA & Fight For Civil Rights

Key Question — Which people and/or events had the biggest impact on the civil rights movement in the USA?



Key Concepts

Democracy	A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.
Diversity	The practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders.
Immigration	The international movement of people to a destination country of which they are not natives to settle, work and live there.
Oppression	To control, or rule in a harsh way, through prolonged cruel or unjust treatment by those in authority through the removal or restriction of basic human rights.
Society	A large social group sharing the same geographical or social territory, subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.
War	Period of fighting or conflict between two opposing sides, where the winner is able to implement their views, laws or systems over the loser.

Key Events

1619	Slavery begins in the USA as the first African slaves arrive in Virginia
1808	Congress bans importation of slaves from Africa
1849	Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery
1861-1865	American Civil War — nearly 750,000 Americans die during the conflict
1865	Abraham Lincoln outlaws slavery throughout the USA
1879	Black Exodus takes place — tens of thousands of African Americans migrate from southern states to Kansas
1896	Supreme Court Case rules that black and white people should be 'equal but separate', legitimising segregation
1870-1965	Jimmie Crow laws are upheld and enforced, meaning black Americans are discriminated against and separated from white Americans
1955	Montgomery Bus Boycott — African Americans refuse to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating, after the Rosa Parks incident
1963	Birmingham — Alabama demonstrations
1963	MLK delivers famous 'I have a dream' speech to an audience of over 200,000 in Washington DC
1965	Enactment of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 give black Americans the same voting rights as white Americans
1965	Malcolm X assassinated
1968	MLK assassinated

Where in the world is it?



Who fought in The American Civil War?

North (The Union)	More reliant on industry than agriculture and called for abolition of slavery. There were states in the North known as Free States where Black Americans were free from slavery.
South (Confederate States)	More reliant on agriculture, particularly cotton production, which relied heavily on slave labour. These states separated from the North and formed Confederate States.

Key People

Abraham Lincoln 1809 – 1865	Statesman and lawyer who served as the 16th president of the United States through the Civil War. He preserved the Union, abolished slave and strengthened federal government.
Harriet Tubman 1822 – 1913	Escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most effective and celebrated leaders of the Underground Railroad.
Underground Railroad	Loosely organised system for helping fugitive slaves escape to Canada and to areas of safety in free states in USA.
Linda Brown 1922 – 2018	1954 — Linda Brown's father wins court case for her to attend closer local 'white' school.
Ruby Bridges 1954	1960 — First black child to attend all white school in Louisiana, escorted to and from school each day by US government marshals.
Jackie Robinson 1919 – 1972	1947 — becomes first black baseball player to play with white men — beginning to break colour barriers down.
Rosa Parks 1913 – 2005	Arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man.
Martin Luther King Jr 1929 – 1968	An American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement.
Malcolm X 1925 – 1965	Promoted black identity and black power movement to fight back against white oppression.
Muhammad Ali 1942 – 2016	Boxer and activist. Nicknamed "The Greatest," He refused to join the army due to his religious beliefs and in protest at the treatment of black Americans.

Key Vocabulary

Emancipation	Process of being set free from unpleasant or unfair legal or social restrictions.
Segregation	Separation of people into racial or other ethnic groups in daily life.
Slavery	System in which people are treated like property, allowing individuals to own, buy and sell other individuals.

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