

Summary: The Struggle Continues

The Civil Rights Movement

In the 1950s, African Americans worked to change laws that did not protect their civil rights. In 1954, the Supreme Court said that laws that made separate schools for African American children and white children were not legal.

In 1955, the police arrested Rosa Parks, a black woman, because she broke a law. She refused to give her bus seat to a white man. Later, Martin Luther King Jr. helped lead a bus boycott. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in nonviolent protest. His courage inspired others to use it too. Many people stopped using public buses. In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation of public buses was illegal.

In 1963, more than 200,000 people came to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate for equal rights. In 1964, the Civil Rights Act made segregation in public places illegal. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act prevented discrimination in voting.

Civil Rights for All

Women also worked for their rights. In the 1960s, women and men were not treated equally. Men usually earned more than women who did the same work. Betty Friedan helped start the National Organization for Women (NOW). The women wanted a law, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), to protect their rights. Most states now have laws that require equal pay for equal work.

The American Indian Movement held protests to get back land taken from them in the past. The United States gave some land back to American Indians and passed a law to guarantee their civil rights. It was called the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Migrant workers wanted better pay, health care, and education for their children. Cesar Chavez and others organized the United Farm Workers Union to tell people about the migrants' hard working conditions. Groups also worked to protect the civil rights of disabled people. A law was passed that said no one can refuse to hire people with disabilities, and new buildings must have access for everyone.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

civil rights *noun*, rights and freedoms people have because they are citizens of a country

nonviolent protest *noun*, a way of bringing change without using violence

migrant worker *noun*, a person who moves from place to place to find work

After You Read

REVIEW What was Rosa Parks's role in the Civil Rights movement? Circle two sentences that tell about something Rosa Parks did that led to a bus boycott.

REVIEW What was the Indian Civil Rights Act? Underline the words that tell what the law guaranteed.

REVIEW What did migrant workers fight for? Highlight the sentence that tells what migrant workers wanted.