

## Civil Rights Movement Timeline



Long before Martin Luther King Jr. walked onto the civil rights stage, many important events took place in the civil rights movement for equality and peace in America. Use the following timeline (summarizing some of the events in the Civil Rights Movement) to answer the questions at the end.

### Timeline

1820 - The Missouri Compromise is enacted; slavery is banned everywhere north of Missouri, but is still legal in the southern United States.

1849 - Harriet Tubman escapes slavery in Maryland and spends the next several years helping more than 300 people escape to free territory by way of the Underground Railroad.

1861 - The Civil War begins.

1862 - Congress gives President Abraham Lincoln the green light to allow black people to join the military.

1865 - The Civil War ends. The Thirteenth Amendment is passed and slavery is officially abolished from the United States.

1868 - The Fourteenth Amendment is passed giving black citizens in America full citizenship.

1870 - The right to vote is granted to all American males (other than Native Americans), regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude (so even men who had previously been slaves could now vote).

1875 - Civil Rights Act is passed giving all black citizens the right to equal treatment in public and on any public transportation.

1883 - US Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act to be unconstitutional because laws covered by the Civil Rights Act should be left up to individual states, not the federal government.

1946 - US Supreme Court bans segregation of blacks and whites on public transit.

1955 - Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasts over a year.

1957 - Nine black students integrate with white students at Central High School in Little Rock, AR. President Dwight Eisenhower sends the paratroopers in to ward off any violence.

1963 - More than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington, DC, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech.

1986 - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated as a federal holiday for the first time.

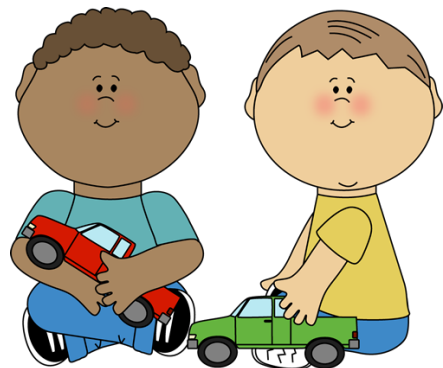
2000 - Colin Powell becomes the first black US Secretary of State.

2009 - Barack Obama becomes first African American president of the United States.

## Questions

1. The Civil War lasted for how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what year did Martin Luther King, Jr. give his famous speech? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many years between when the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was passed and when it was declared unconstitutional? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year did American males (other than Native Americans), regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude earn the right to vote? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who became the first black US Secretary of State? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which Amendment officially abolished slavery in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which US President allowed blacks to join the military? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Missouri Compromise banned slavery everywhere \_\_\_\_\_ of Missouri.

Source: KidzWorld



## Civil Rights Movement Timeline Answers

1. The Civil War lasted for how many years? **4 years**
2. In what year did Martin Luther King, Jr. give his famous speech? **1963**
3. How many years between when the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was passed and when it was declared unconstitutional? **8 years**
4. In what year did American males (other than Native Americans), regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude earn the right to vote? **1870**
5. Who became the first black US Secretary of State? **Colin Powell**
6. Which Amendment officially abolished slavery in the United States? **13<sup>th</sup>**
7. Which US President allowed blacks to join the military? **Abraham Lincoln**
8. Who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus? **Rosa Parks**
9. The Missouri Compromise banned slavery everywhere north of Missouri.

