Alabama to America

Trace how civil rights events shaped change across the nation.

SS24.5.12b "Trace the chronology of civil rights events in Alabama and across the nation, and summarize how they impacted one another."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each dated event, number the events in time order, and circle words that link an Alabama event to a nationwide effect.

How Change Spread

1. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The ruling reached Alabama, where many schools still separated Black and white children. The next year, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. Black residents began a bus boycott that lasted more than a year.

2. In 1956, a federal court ruling, upheld by the Supreme Court, led to the end of segregation on Montgomery's buses. News of the boycott showed people across the nation how organized protests could challenge unfair rules. In 1963, children and adults marched against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. Police used dogs and fire hoses against protesters. Images of the attacks spread nationwide and increased pressure on leaders in Washington to change laws.

3. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, which banned segregation in many public places across the nation. Yet Black Alabamians still faced barriers when they tried to vote. In 1965, marchers set out from Selma toward Montgomery to demand voting rights. Violence against marchers on a Selma bridge shocked viewers nationwide. That attention helped build support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed unfair voting rules.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What national decision came before the Montgomery bus boycott, and what problem in Alabama did it address?

2. Before the Birmingham marches, how did the Montgomery boycott affect people beyond Alabama?

3. How did the 1963 Birmingham marches help bring about a nationwide change in 1964?

4. How did events in Selma help lead to a national law in 1965?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum audio script that traces at least three events from the passage in time order, including one Alabama protest and one national action. Explain one link between events, and end by telling why the struggle continued after the 1964 law.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each dated event, number the events in time order, and circle words that link an Alabama event to a nationwide effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What national decision came before the Montgomery bus boycott, and what problem in Alabama did it address?	**The 1954 Supreme Court ruling said segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Many Alabama schools still separated Black and white children.**
2	Before the Birmingham marches, how did the Montgomery boycott affect people beyond Alabama?	**News of the boycott showed people across the nation how organized protests could challenge unfair rules.**
3	How did the 1963 Birmingham marches help bring about a nationwide change in 1964?	**Images of police attacks on protesters spread nationwide and increased pressure to change laws. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.**
4	How did events in Selma help lead to a national law in 1965?	**Violence against Selma marchers shocked viewers nationwide. The attention helped build support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled against segregated public schools, but Alabama still had separate schools. Montgomery residents then boycotted buses, showing the nation how organized protests could challenge segregation. Images of police attacking Birmingham protesters in 1963 increased pressure for change, and Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. The struggle continued because Black Alabamians still faced barriers to voting, so Selma marches in 1965 helped build support for the Voting Rights Act.

Accept accurate wording that preserves the order of events and connects an Alabama event to a nationwide effect. For the audio script, look for four sentences and an explanation that voting barriers remained after the 1964 law.