

Rights in Motion

Key people, court cases, protests, and laws changed civil rights.

SS5H6 "Describe the importance of key people, events, and developments between 1950-1975."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each key person named. Circle each event or law that changed civil rights, then put a star beside the sentence that tells why it mattered.

Steps Toward Equal Rights

- ① In 1954, the Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Court said that separating public school students by race was unconstitutional. This decision challenged segregation across the nation and gave civil rights workers a powerful legal tool. Still, many communities resisted changing their schools, so court decisions alone did not end unequal treatment.
- ② After Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 for refusing to give up her bus seat, Black residents organized a bus boycott. Martin Luther King Jr. became a leading speaker during the protest. In 1956, a federal district court ruled in *Browder v. Gayle* that bus segregation was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court let that ruling stand, ending Montgomery's segregated buses.
- ③ Large marches and voter-registration drives kept public attention on unfair laws. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, which banned segregation in many public places and job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act protected Black citizens' voting rights by banning literacy tests and allowing federal oversight in places with discrimination.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why was the Brown v. Board of Education decision important to the civil rights movement?

2 How did the Montgomery bus boycott and the Browder v. Gayle ruling work together to change Montgomery buses?

3 What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 change? Give two examples from the passage.

4 How did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 protect Black citizens' voting rights?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one person, event, or development from the passage. Write a three-sentence museum label that names it, tells what happened, and explains why it mattered. Include one date.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each key person named. Circle each event or law that changed civil rights, then put a star beside the sentence that tells why it mattered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the Brown v. Board of Education decision important to the civil rights movement?	It challenged segregation nationwide and gave civil rights workers a powerful legal tool, even though many communities resisted change.
2	How did the Montgomery bus boycott and the Browder v. Gayle ruling work together to change Montgomery buses?	The boycott protested unfair bus treatment after Rosa Parks's arrest. The federal district court ruling found bus segregation unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court let the ruling stand, ending segregated buses in Montgomery.
3	What did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 change? Give two examples from the passage.	It banned segregation in many public places and banned job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
4	How did the Voting Rights Act of 1965 protect Black citizens' voting rights?	It banned literacy tests and allowed federal oversight in places with discrimination.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested after she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. Her arrest helped lead Black residents to organize a bus boycott. The protest brought attention to bus segregation and helped lead to a court ruling that ended Montgomery's segregated buses.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a person, event, or development to a change in civil rights. For the museum label, students should include an accurate date, a clear description, and an explanation of importance.