

Fairness Barriers

How unfair beliefs and actions can block equal chances.

3.8b "Across time and place, communities and cultures have struggled with prejudice and discrimination as barriers to justice and equality for all people."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each unfair idea or unfair action. Circle each action that helps move a community toward justice or equality.

Equal Chances at School and Beyond

- ① Before 1954, many public schools in the United States were separated by race. Black children and white children had to attend different schools. These rules came from prejudice, an unfair idea about a group of people. The separation was discrimination because the rules treated children differently because of race. It kept many Black children from equal chances to learn.
- ② That year, the Supreme Court decided in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate public schools were not equal. The decision said that school separation by race violated the Constitution. Changing a rule was a step toward justice, or fair treatment. Still, court decisions did not end discrimination right away. Many communities worked for years to make schools open to children of every race.
- ③ Prejudice and discrimination can still harm a community today. For example, a club might refuse to let a child join because of the child's religion. That action is discrimination. It blocks the child's equal chance to take part. People can notice unfair ideas, speak up, and help make fair rules. When everyone can join public places and activities, a community moves closer to equality.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What unfair idea and unfair action led to separate schools before 1954?

2 How did school separation keep Black children from equality?

3 What did the Supreme Court decide in Brown v. Board of Education, and why was that a step toward justice?

4 In the club example, what action is discrimination, and what equal chance does it block?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an unfair idea or action that could happen in a community. Explain how it blocks an equal chance, then tell one fair rule or action that could help.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each unfair idea or unfair action. Circle each action that helps move a community toward justice or equality. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What unfair idea and unfair action led to separate schools before 1954?	Prejudice was the unfair idea about a group of people. Discrimination was making Black and white children attend different schools.
2	How did school separation keep Black children from equality?	It kept many Black children from equal chances to learn.
3	What did the Supreme Court decide in Brown v. Board of Education, and why was that a step toward justice?	The Court decided that separate public schools were not equal and that separation by race violated the Constitution. This was a step toward fair treatment.
4	In the club example, what action is discrimination, and what equal chance does it block?	Refusing to let a child join because of the child's religion is discrimination. It blocks the child's equal chance to take part.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a playground, some children think a new student cannot play soccer because she speaks a different language. They leave her out, so she does not get the same chance to join the game. A fair rule is that anyone who wants to play can join a team.

Accept answers that distinguish prejudice as an unfair idea from discrimination as unfair treatment or action. For the open response, accept realistic community examples that explain both a blocked equal chance and a fair solution.