

Unit 13

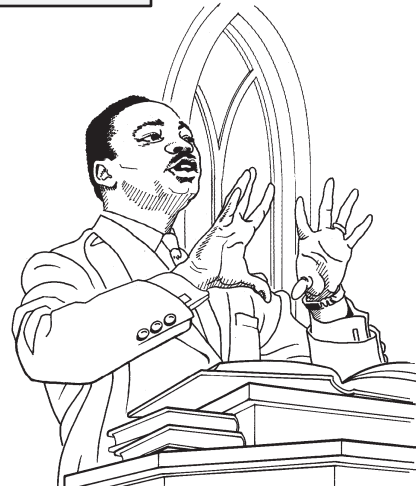
1950s - 1990s

Civil Rights & Equal Rights

During the second half of the 20th century, the Civil Rights Movement led the way to great changes in American life.

Leaders of the movement organized widespread efforts to end racial segregation, which was still common in the 1950s. They wanted to change attitudes and laws that kept African Americans socially isolated and at a disadvantage. The movement faced many obstacles, but by the mid-1960s it had achieved its most important goals.

The success of the Civil Rights Movement inspired action by many others as well. Women began pushing for an end to social customs and laws that often limited their choices in life. People with disabilities began organizing for recognition of their rights. Americans were stepping forward to live up to the declaration that “all men are created equal.”



Internet resources:

www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Words and people to know:

Civil Rights Movement

segregation

Jim Crow laws

Plessy v. Ferguson

Brown v. Board of Education

Rosa Parks

Montgomery bus boycott

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

sit-in

Freedom Riders

NAACP

Civil Rights Act of 1964

public facilities

Voting Rights Act of 1965

literacy tests

Women's Movement

National Organization for
Women (NOW)

Equal Pay Act of 1963

Title IX

Equal Rights Amendment

Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA)

Americans with Disabilities
Act (ADA)

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Internet Support Site: www.fasttrackteaching.com/ffap

Notes:

Outline – Civil Rights & Equal Rights

1. Racial segregation and discrimination were still widespread in America in the 1950s.

- A. Segregation was still allowed under an old 1896 Supreme Court decision called *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
 - * That decision allowed “separate but equal” facilities for blacks and whites.
- B. In Southern states, Jim Crow laws were common and usually required separate schools, railroad cars, hotels, restaurants, etc.
- C. In all parts of the country blacks often experienced discrimination and social isolation.



2. The Civil Rights Movement grew in the 1950s and '60s.

- A. The *Brown v. Board of Education* case (1954).
 - * The Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional and therefore illegal.
- B. Rosa Parks helped end segregation on city buses in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, in 1956.
 - * She was arrested after sitting in the “white” section of a city bus.
 - * She and others, including Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a bus boycott by blacks in Montgomery.
 - * A federal court ruled that racial segregation on the buses was illegal, and the boycott ended after just over a year.
- C. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the most famous leader of the Civil Rights Movement.
 - * He insisted on non-violent “passive resistance” in all protests and demonstrations.
 - * His “I Have A Dream” speech at the March on Washington (1963) became famous as a call for racial equality.



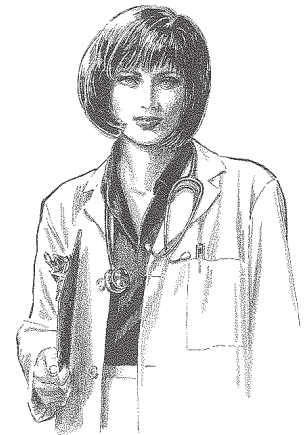
3. The Civil Rights Movement achieved its main goals in the 1960s.

- A. Blacks and white supporters used protests, sit-ins, marches, and Freedom Rides to draw attention to the injustice of segregation.
- B. The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) played a key role.
 - * It helped support legal challenges to segregation in the court system.
 - * It pushed Congress to pass new laws to end segregation and discrimination.
- C. The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** prohibited segregation in public places, and banned discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- D. The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** protected voting rights for all citizens.
 - * It banned literacy tests for voting, and gave the federal government the power to oversee voter registration.

Outline – *continued*

4. The success of the Civil Rights Movement inspired women to seek greater equality, especially in the workplace.

- A. Traditional women's roles in society carried some disadvantages.
 - * Social expectations and discrimination in hiring kept many working women in fields like teaching, nursing, and secretarial work.
 - * Women were often paid less than men doing the same job.
- B. Women's organizations pushed for new laws to protect women's rights.
 - * The **Equal Pay Act of 1963** made it illegal for employers to pay women and men at different rates for doing the same job.
 - * A section of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** made it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sex.
- C. The **National Organization for Women (NOW)** was created in 1966 to keep the heat on the issue of equal employment opportunities.
- D. NOW pushed Congress to propose the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** to guarantee equal rights for women.
 - * The ERA was not ratified (approved) by enough states to become an amendment to the Constitution.
 - * Even so, the public debate over ERA helped change attitudes and laws, which led to much wider opportunities for women.
- E. Congress passed a law called **Title IX** in 1972 requiring that schools and colleges give women equal educational opportunities.
 - * The law is best known for forcing colleges give equal support to women's sports programs.

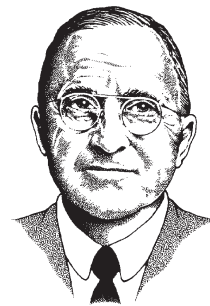
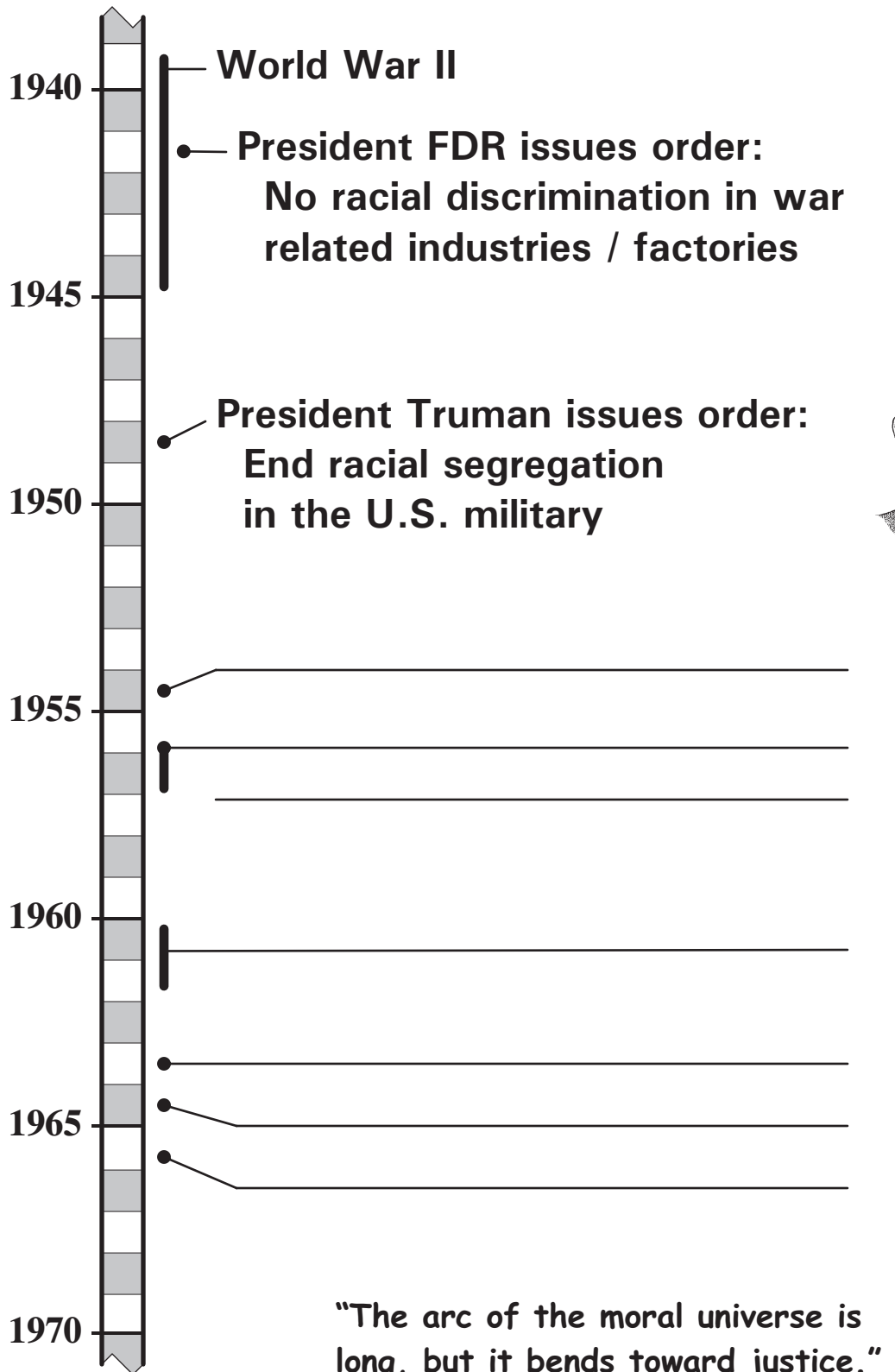


5. The disability rights movement began, and pushed for changes to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

- A. The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** renewed a law first passed by Congress in 1975.
 - * It guarantees children and young adults the same quality of free and appropriate education as non-disabled students.
- B. The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** was passed by Congress in 1990.
 - * It guarantees equal opportunity in employment, public transportation, government services, and more.



Timeline: The Civil Rights Movement



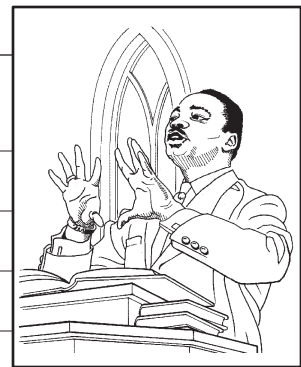
"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil Rights Heroes of the 1950s and 1960s

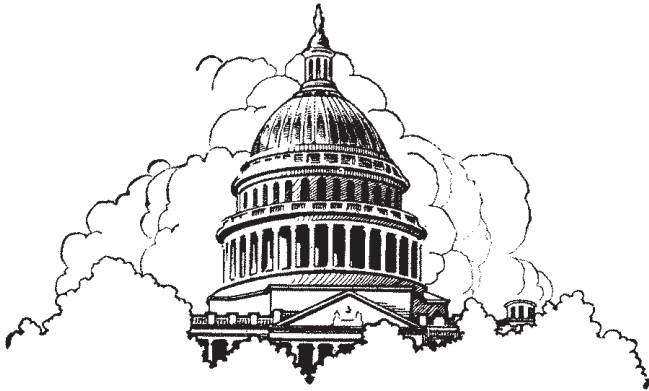
Rosa Parks



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Civil Rights: Famous Legal Cases and Laws



The U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress have played very big roles in shaping the meaning of civil rights in America.

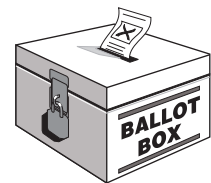
Legal Cases & Laws



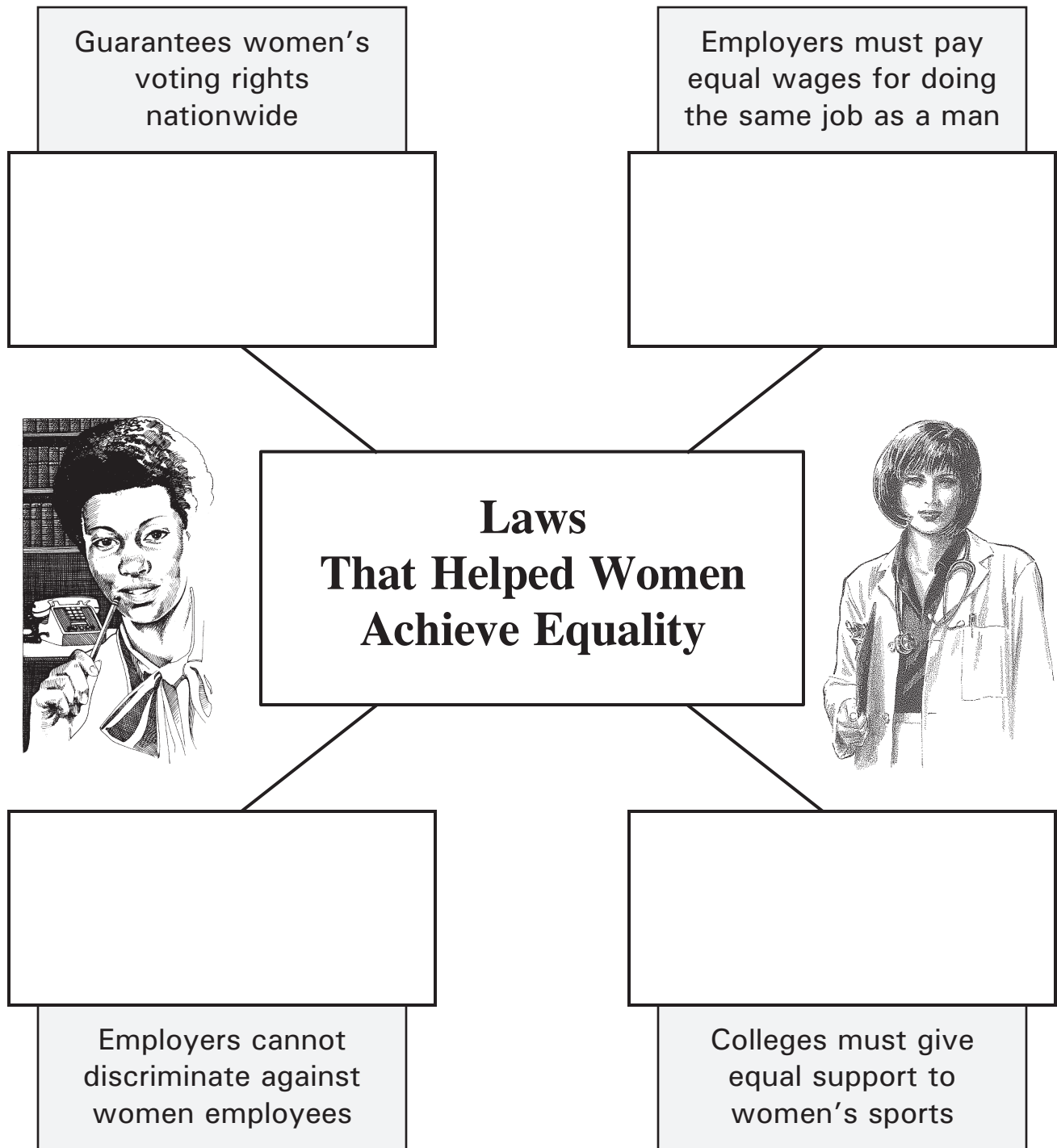








Landmark Laws for Women's Equality



"I am Woman, hear me roar / In numbers too big to ignore"
- from the hit song by Helen Reddy and Ray Burton that reached #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1972.

The Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment was proposed by Congress in 1972 to help protect women's rights, but it failed to be ratified by enough states.

Equal Rights Amendment

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

- from the proposed Equal Rights Amendment



The Equal Rights Amendment looked like a sure thing when Congress proposed it in 1972. The idea for the ERA wasn't really new, and many different groups had long spoken out in favor of it.

A group called the National Organization for Women (NOW) was an especially big supporter of the proposed amendment. Their leaders played a key role in getting Congress to propose the ERA.

Thirty five states gave their approval by the end of 1977. The rules of the U.S. Constitution, however, required 38 before the proposal could become an amendment.

By that time, some people were arguing that federal laws already guaranteed equal rights for all citizens. They said that the ERA wasn't needed, and that it might even take away some existing women's rights, such as maternity leave from work after childbirth.

In 1979 the deadline for ratification passed. The ERA was not approved as an amendment. In spite of this, the long public debate helped change attitudes about women's rights. Even without the ERA, women were quickly gaining a wider range of options in business, education, and elected public office.

Laws to Protect People with Disabilities

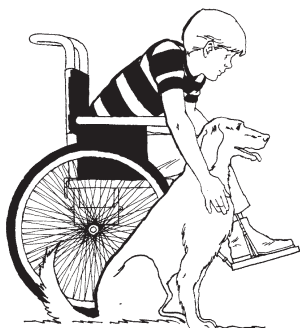


A movement grew up during the 1960s and 1970s to set right the inequalities often experienced by people with disabilities.

Here are two important laws passed by Congress you should know about:

Schools must provide children and young adults with free and appropriate public education

Requires equal opportunities in employment, government services, and more



Laws That Protect the Rights of People with Disabilities



"It's not our disabilities, it's our abilities that count."

- Chris Burke, an American actor and singer who has Down syndrome

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - a law passed by Congress in 1990 which requires that people with disabilities be given equal opportunities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, government services, and telecommunications services.

Brown v. Board of Education - a 1954 Supreme Court case that declared racial segregation of public schools to be unconstitutional. The decision in this case overturned the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision by the Supreme Court that allowed “separate but equal” segregation laws. In the case of schools, the court ruled, separate schools are not equal, and cannot be made equal.

Civil Rights Movement - the widespread effort in the 1950s and 1960s to end “Jim Crow” segregation laws and ensure equal rights for African Americans. The movement also sought to change racist attitudes that left blacks socially isolated from whites, and at a severe disadvantage in life.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 - a law passed by Congress that made segregation illegal in public places. This action by Congress made “Jim Crow” laws, which still existed in many states, illegal. The law generally prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

Equal Rights Amendment - a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution aimed at guaranteeing women complete equality with men. The proposal was never approved by enough states during the 1970s to become an actual amendment. Opponents, including many women, said the ERA was not needed, and might actually take away some legal protections for women.

Equal Pay Act of 1963 - a law passed by Congress that generally said employers must pay women at the same rate as men doing the same job.

Freedom Riders - groups of blacks and whites who rode on buses into Southern states in the early 1960s to protest against segregated waiting rooms in local bus stations.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - a law, first passed under a different name in 1975, that requires all states to provide for free and appropriate education for children and young adults with disabilities. Before this law was passed, many school districts did not

provide equal programs for students with severe disabilities because of the cost of providing specially trained teachers and special equipment.

Jim Crow laws - laws passed in Southern states, and in some other states, that required racial segregation of hotels, railroad cars, busses, schools, and other public places. Many of these laws were still in effect as late as the 1960s, when they were made illegal by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

literacy tests - tests of reading ability. Some states and localities required anyone registering to vote to pass a literacy test as proof that they could read and understand public issues. In most cases, the real intent of this requirement was to discourage blacks from registering to vote. Because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, literacy tests are no longer allowed as a condition of voting.

Montgomery bus boycott - a protest in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955 in which African Americans boycotted (refused to use) the city bus system. The boycott was started after a black woman, Rosa Parks, was arrested for refusing to move to the “black section” in the back of a city bus. The boycott lasted just over a year, until a federal court declared that segregation on the buses was illegal.

NAACP - the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was started by a group of blacks and whites in New York City in 1909. Its goal was to end segregation laws and work to improve life for African Americans. The organization is still active, and plays an important role in bringing attention to issues of importance to black Americans.

National Organization for Women (NOW) - a group started in Washington, D.C., in 1966 to push for equal opportunity for women, especially in employment opportunities and education. NOW was one of the main supporters of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. It remains active in many issues of importance to women.

Plessy v. Ferguson - the 1896 Supreme Court case that declared racial segregation laws were permitted under the Constitution, if the separate facilities for blacks and whites were equal in quality. This ruling was overturned by later Supreme Court decisions in the 1950s.

continued

Glossary – *continued*

public facilities - places where people are normally welcome to go or make use of, such as city parks, restaurants, hotels, water fountains, and public restrooms.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. - the famous leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. His speeches and actions rallied both blacks and whites to the effort to end racial segregation. King first gained national attention as a leader during the Montgomery bus boycott, following the arrest of Rosa Parks. He insisted on non-violence, called “passive resistance,” during all protests and demonstrations.

Rosa Parks - the black woman who challenged the system of segregation on city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Her refusal to move to the back of the bus as the “white” section filled up helped launch the modern Civil Rights movement.

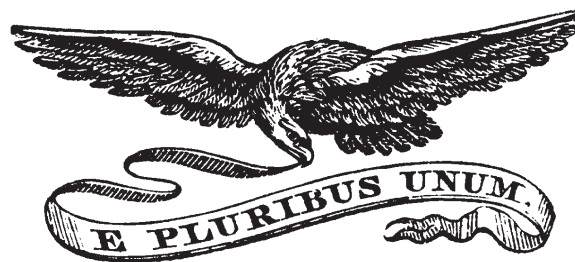
segregation - forced separation. Usually the word refers to separation based on race, either enforced by law or by social customs.

sit-in - a type of organized protest in which groups of people sit and refuse to move. They usually expect to be arrested, and hope this will call the attention of the press and public to an unfair situation.

Title IX - a 1972 law that generally requires schools, colleges, and universities to give equal financial support and equal opportunities to women students in both sports and academics. (Pronounce: Title 9.)

Voting Rights Act of 1965 - a law passed by Congress that made it illegal to limit a person’s voting rights on the basis of race. The law ended literacy tests and “poll taxes” that some states required to register to vote. The law also gave the federal government the authority to oversee voter registration, if needed.

Women’s Movement - the widespread effort that began during the 1960s to end laws and change social customs that often limited women’s options in life and their opportunities in employment.

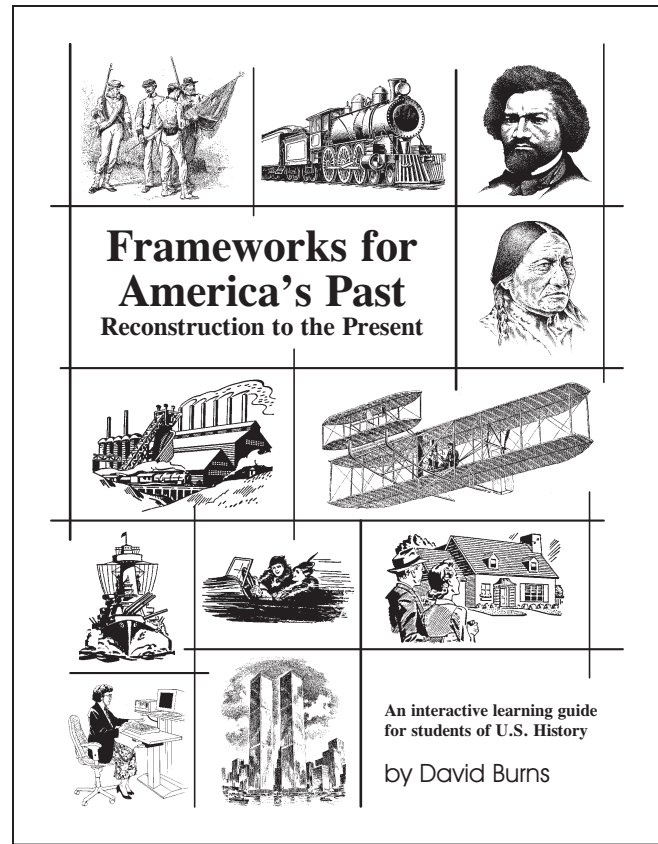




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