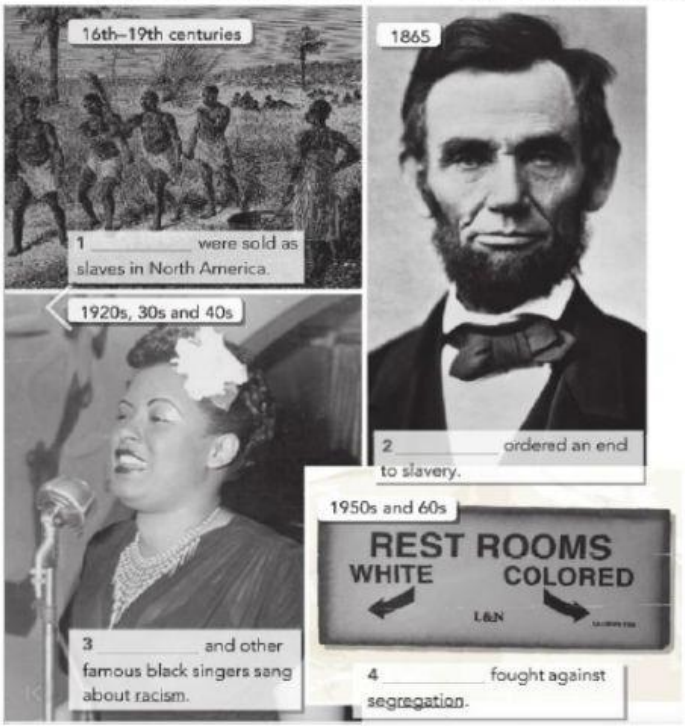
READING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS IN AN ARTICLE

1. Look at the pictures and complete the captions with the names in the box. Check the meaning of the underlined words in a dictionary.

Abraham Lincoln **Africans** **Barack Obama** **Billie Holiday**
Martin Luther King **the Civil Rights Movement**



2. Listen to the beginning of a class presentation about Martin Luther King and check your answers to Exercise 1. Then answer the questions:

1 How long did slavery exist in North America?
2 Who led the Civil Rights Movement?
3 Why was the election of Barack Obama so significant

3. Read the text about the American Civil Rights Movement. What happened on these dates?

1865	1963
1870	1964
1955	1968

4. Read the text again. Are statements 1-6 true (T) or false (F)?

1 African Americans started fighting for their rights in 1955.	
2 Black American men were allowed to vote for the first time a few years after slavery ended.	
3 In the 1950sit was impossible for black and white people to sit together in a restaurant.	
4 Linda Brown couldn't go to her neighbourhood school because she wasn't white.	
5 Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting next to a white man on a bus.	
6 Martin Luther King made over 3,000 speeches in the thirteen-year period before his death.	

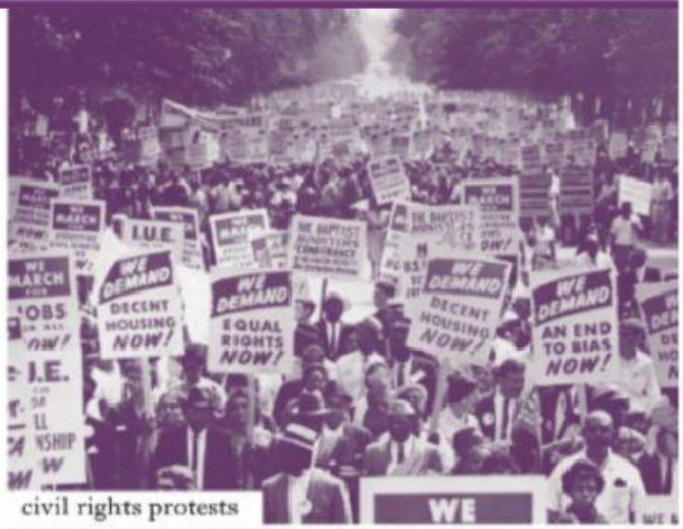
LIVEWORKSHEETS

THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The African American Civil Rights Movement took place in the USA between 1955 and 1968. But African Americans had fought for freedom and justice for many years before that.

The need for a Civil Rights Movement

In 1865 Abraham Lincoln declared the end of slavery. After this African Americans became full citizens of the USA and in 1870 men were given the right to vote. However, in the first half of the twentieth century racism against the black community was a huge social problem. In the 1950s racial segregation still existed: black people couldn't attend the same schools as white people; black and white people were separated on trains and buses and in other public areas such as restaurants and movie theaters.



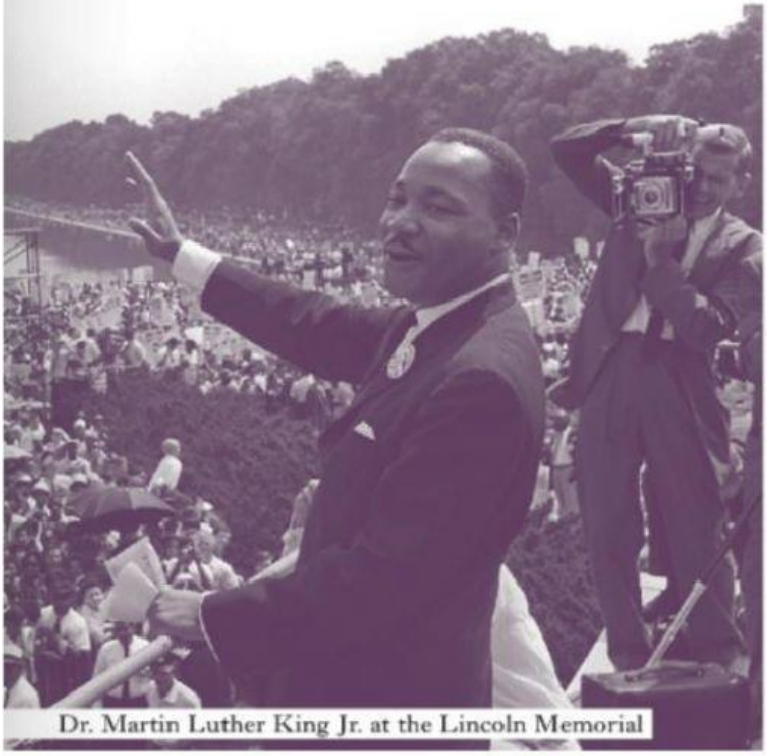
civil rights protests

Two key events

In the early 1950s in Kansas, a young black girl, Linda Brown, applied to a school near her house, but she wasn't accepted. Instead, she had to travel a long way to a black-only school. She became famous when her father fought against the local Board of Education. Finally, the US Supreme Court agreed to stop segregation in public schools. Their victory helped all black children to get a better education.

In 1955 a forty-two-year-old black woman, Rosa Parks, sat near the front of a crowded bus in Alabama and refused to give up her seat to a white man. Police were called and Rosa was put in prison. Rosa's actions inspired the black community to support the Civil Rights Movement. With Martin Luther King as their leader, they refused to use public transport for more than a year, until segregation on buses was stopped.

Rosa Parks


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King was one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. He said, 'We are tired of being segregated and humiliated.'

He believed that all men and women, black or white, are equal members of the human race. Between 1955 and 1968 he travelled over six million miles and made more than 3,000 speeches. In August 1963 he gave his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over 250,000 people heard him say:

> ***"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."***

In 1964 King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial discrimination. Tragically, on 4 April 1968 Martin Luther King was assassinated. He was thirty-nine years old.

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