

From Slavery to Freedom

1. Slavery lasted from 1619 to 1863, date of the Emancipation Proclamation, during the Civil War.
2. Though the Constitution says that "All men are created equal", it became common practice in many Southern States to have "separate but equal" facilities. In reality, colored people were not treated equally at all, this was called segregation. The laws of segregation were called "Jim Crow laws". They remained legal for 100 years.
3. Black people didn't have the same rights as the whites. Here are a few examples: They were not allowed to go to the same school. In some restaurants, they couldn't eat in the same room as the whites. They also had to use different toilets. They used to ride the same buses but the Whites sat in the front of the bus whereas colored people had to sit in the back. They also couldn't share the same benches in parks.
4. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Pacifist Movement organised sit-ins and freedom marches gathering thousands of black people to protest against discrimination. They also used legal action. They obtained the desegregation of schools in 1954 and the "separate but equal" clause was declared unconstitutional.
5. In 1955, a black woman, Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. She became an important figure of the modern Civil rights movement. The Montgomery bus boycott led to the desegregation of public transport in 1955.
6. In 1963, a black preacher, Martin Luther King, made a famous speech in Washington DC in favor of black people. That was another major step. He wanted equality between black and white people. His fighting for black people rights made him famous and he was awarded a Peace Nobel Prize in 1964.

I * Find the following information. Make full sentences.

- What does the Constitution say?
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- What did black people protest against in the 1950s and 1960s?
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- When did black people obtain the desegregation of schools?
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- When did the desegregation of public transport take place?
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- Who gave a speech in Washington D.C. in 1963?
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