

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States

Even after **slavery**¹ ended in 1865, African-Americans in the United States still faced **discrimination**². The policy of **segregation**³ kept them separate from whites. It was hard for African-Americans to **vote**⁴. They couldn't use the same restaurants, hotels, pools, or train cars as whites. They were even forced to sit at the back of the bus.

People knew that this wasn't right, so they started fighting for **racial**⁵ **equality**⁶ under the law. Their efforts came to be known as the **Civil**⁷ Rights Movement.

Many of the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement were just ordinary people. One was Rosa Parks, a black woman who refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. When she was **arrested**⁸, thousands of people



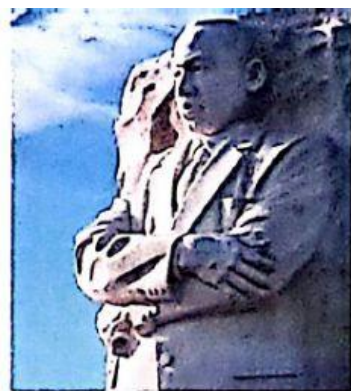
▲ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers a speech.

Questions

1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage? •Main Idea•
 - a The Civil Rights Movement caused a lot of problems.
 - b The Civil Rights Movement had many different heroes.
 - c Martin Luther King, Jr. started the Civil Rights Movement.
 - d The Civil Rights Movement is still going on today.
2. What does this passage focus on? •Subject Matter•
 - a A fight for equal rights.
 - b The life of Rosa Parks.
 - c The US government.
 - d A theory.
3. What was Rosa Parks' contribution to the Civil Rights Movement? •Supporting Details•
 - a She refused to sit at the back of the bus.
 - b She refused to stand in line at a restaurant.
 - c She went on hunger strike in Little Rock.
 - d She signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

boycotted Montgomery buses. The city lost money, and segregation on buses was stopped the following year.

- 15 Then there was the "Little Rock Nine." Nine black teenagers were **determined**⁹ to attend an all-white school in Arkansas. On their first day of class in 1957, they were blocked by an angry **mob**¹⁰ of people. Two weeks later, the president of the United States sent soldiers to protect them.
- 20 These soldiers remained at the school the entire year.



▲ Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington DC

- The most recognizable figure of the Civil Rights Movement was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was known for organizing **nonviolent**¹¹ **protests**¹², putting "freedom riders" on segregated buses, and arranging sit-ins at restaurants. In 1963, hundreds of thousands of people **marched**¹³ on Washington, DC, to demand equality. There, Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.
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The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a huge victory for the movement. It made it illegal to discriminate against people based on their race. But it can take a long time for people's attitudes to catch up to the law. Even to this day, there's still work to be done.

4. What was likely true about the sit-ins that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. arranged? •Inference•
- a They did not achieve anything.
 - b They targeted businesses that Dr. King didn't like.
 - c They took place at white-only restaurants.
 - d They were known around the country for being violent.
5. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word **boycott** in the third paragraph? •Words in Context•
- a Buying an extra bottle of shampoo because it is half-price.
 - b Buying a certain brand because it has a reputation for quality.
 - c Refusing to buy plastic because it harms the environment.
 - d Using violent protest to change unfair laws.
6. What was the author's tone in this passage? •Author's Tone•
- a Loving.
 - b Ironic.
 - c Comic.
 - d Serious.