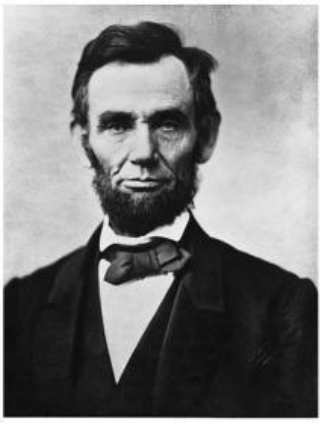
B2	African Americans	LIU008

Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

There are about 40 million African Americans in the USA, roughly 13 per cent of the population. The majority are _____ **(DESCEND)** of slaves "imported" from Africa to work on the plantations in the south of the USA. President Lincoln abolished _____ **(SLAVE)** in 1865 after the Civil War. Many former slaves moved north, east and west to the big cities in search of work, becoming the first blacks to live in urban ghettos.



Abraham Lincoln – 16th President of the United States of America

Although government efforts to fight _____ **(SEGREGATE)** and prevent _____ **(DISCRIMINATE)** against blacks were at a standstill for decades, some progress was made in certain areas. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s however, that black leaders like Martin Luther King were able to mobilise large sections of both the black and white population and launch the Civil Rights _____ **(MOVE)**. Thanks to public sympathy for blacks and to non-violent marches and _____ **(DEMONSTRATE)**, laws became necessary. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, which aimed at _____ **(RACE)** desegregation by granting blacks _____ **(EQUAL)** in all political and social fields.

<u>Positive changes of the past decades:</u>

- Race is no longer the issue it was before and during the 1950s and 60s.
- Interracial _____ **(MARRY)** has gained widespread _____ **(ACCEPT)** .
- A black middle class has emerged, and black millionaires or politicians are no longer _____ **(COMMON)**. In 2008 Barack Obama became the first African American president in America's 200-year history.
- Racism is on the decline. The racial strife of the 60s on one hand and white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan on the other are elements of the past.
- Besides continuing to play a major role in the _____ **(ENTERTAIN)** sector, African Americans have also come to dominate certain areas of sport, e.g. boxing, basketball, track and field etc...
- As a result of the integration of an _____ **(INCREASE)** number of middle-class blacks into formerly white _____ **(RESIDE)** areas, there are now many racially mixed suburban communities.

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- Segregation no longer exists in public schools and has also _____ **(APPEAR)** from playgrounds, restaurants and hotels. Blacks enjoy greater racial equality and are confronted with fewer racial barriers than in the past.

Problems still facing African Americans:

- _____ **(HIDE)** discrimination of blacks still exists in some fields like housing or law.
- Black and white colleagues who treat each other in a friendly way at work sometimes lead separate social lives at home.
- Despite _____ **(IMPROVE)** in politics, blacks still remain underrepresented in Congress.
- The most urgent problem is the black underclass. There is now a great _____ **(PARITY)** in income and social standing between successful middle-class blacks and the underclass. Most of them live in inner-city ghettos, the centres of drug-trafficking and the scene of gang-warfare between rival black or Hispanic groups. Nearly half of these people live below the _____ **(POOR)** line and are _____ **(DEPEND)** on welfare, food stamps and Medicaid benefits.
- The _____ **(EMPLOY)** rate of blacks is above average. About one third of black teenagers drop out of high school. The infant _____ **(MORTAL)** rate among blacks is double that of whites. Remedies are needed if the underclass is not to become alienated from the rest of American society.

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