

Civil Rights Notes:

- Jim Crow Laws
 - o Southern US after the Civil War
 - o Banned African-Americans from public schools, facilities (restaurants, theatres, hotels, cinemas, and public baths)
 - o Segregation on trains and buses
- 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education
 - o Supreme Court called school segregation unconstitutional
 - o Some schools were forced to comply
 - o Violence, many African-American students were behind because they did not have the same learning opportunities when they were younger
- 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott
 - o Rosa Parks, front of the bus, she was arrested for not giving up her seat for a white person
 - o 50 leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. organized the boycott on Dec. 1, 1955 – lasted 381 days
 - o Organized black taxi service
 - o MLK Jr. and other leaders' residences were bombed
 - o Federal court ruled 2 – 1 allowing blacks to ride anywhere on a bus
- 1957 Desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas
 - o September group of 9 black students were not let into High School thanks to state appointed National Guardsmen
 - o 3 days later, mob of 1,000 people kept them out, Eisenhower sent in 1,000 paratroopers and 10,000 National Guard = fully desegregated by September 25th
- 1960 Lunch Counter Sit-Ins
 - o 4 students sat all day at a lunch counter even though they weren't served – became county wide quickly – 1964 segregation at lunch counters became illegal
- 1961 Freedom Rides
 - o Tried to travel the interstate between Mississippi and Alabama, 2 buses were stopped at the border and the riders were beaten, stoned and the buses firebombed
 - o Robert Kennedy supported (Attorney General) sent the National Guard in to settle the problem
- 1963 Birmingham
 - o Heavily segregated
 - o MLK Jr. arrested, put in solitary confinement
 - o Wrote "Letter from Birmingham Jail", planned child protests
 - o 959 children were jailed as a result
 - o Afterwards, Kennedy proposed the 1964 Civil Rights Bill
- 1963 March on Washington
 - o April 28th, 250,000 supporting the Civil Rights Bill, equal access to public facilities, education, employment
 - o "I have a dream..." speech
- King assassinated on April 4th, 1968 by James Earl Ray, later discovered that the State of Tennessee and some Federal government officials were involved in the conspiracy to kill King

- Malcolm X served 10 years for burglary, interested in the Black Muslims group, pushed to form an independent country from the US = Black Panthers, violent group fighting for freedom.