**ANSWERS American Civil Rights Reading Questions**

Using the reading below and answer the following questions:

[American Civil Rights Overview - History Skills](https://www.historyskills.com/classroom/modern-history/mod-american-civil-rights-reading/)

1. What were the Jim Crow Laws, and when were they passed?

The Jim Crow Laws were a series of laws passed in the United States between 1876 and 1965 that enforced segregation and racial discrimination against African Americans.

1. What was the ruling in the case of 'Plessy v. Ferguson'?

The ruling stated that racial segregation laws did not conflict with the US Constitution, as long as the facilities for each race were equal. This was known by the catchphrase “separate but equal.”

1. What were some of the ways African Americans were treated unfairly under the Jim Crow Laws?

African Americans were required to use separate facilities from white people, could not vote, were often treated unfairly in the criminal justice system, and the facilities they were provided were made of cheaper materials and received less funding.

1. Who founded the NAACP, and when was it formed?

The NAACP was formed in 1909 by W.E.B Du Bois and a group of African American intellectuals and civil rights activists.

1. What was the significance of the 'Brown v. Board of Education' case?

This case ruled that schools could no longer be segregated based on race, leading to equal education for all races in the United States and overturning the previous Plessy vs Ferguson ruling.

1. Who was Rosa Parks, and what did she do?

Rosa Parks was a civil rights activist who refused to give up her bus seat to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Her arrest sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

1. What was the Little Rock Nine incident?

In 1957, nine African American students were chosen to attend Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas, and they were met by angry white protesters. The National Guard was called in to protect the students.

1. Describe the Greensboro Sit-ins.

In 1960, African American students sat down at a “white only” lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, and refused to move until they were served. This act of defiance started a movement across the country.

1. What were the Freedom Rides?

In 1961, black and white civil rights activists rode buses from Washington D.C. to New Orleans to end segregation on public transportation. They were met with violence and arrests but brought national attention to the issue.

1. Who was Martin Luther King Jr., and what was his role in the Civil Rights movement?

Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader of the nonviolent resistance movement, known for his “I Have a Dream” speech and efforts to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1. What was Malcolm X's contribution to the Civil Rights movement?

Malcolm X was a prominent figure in the Nation of Islam and later a mainstream advocate for civil rights and racial equality. He was known for his controversial views on race and calls for black self-reliance.

1. What is the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and who signed it into law?

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a landmark legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.

**Paragraph Writing**

Based upon what you learnt in your reading, answer the following question in paragraph format (Topic Sentence, Explanation, Evidence, Concluding Sentence):

*What did the American Civil Rights movement achieve?*

The American Civil Rights movement achieved significant progress in dismantling institutional racism and segregation in the United States. Through a series of nonviolent protests, legal challenges, and advocacy, the movement led to landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting. These laws helped to end segregation in public places, banned employment discrimination, and ensured equal voting rights. Additionally, the movement brought about cultural shifts, raising awareness and changing attitudes towards racial equality. Key events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Greensboro Sit-ins, and the March on Washington, along with influential figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks, played pivotal roles in these achievements. The legacy of the movement continues to inspire and influence civil rights efforts globally.