



Key Vocabulary

civil rights movement	The struggle for social justice in 1950s / 1960s. America for people of colour to gain equal rights. Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks are famous figures in the movement.
segregation	The separation of black and white people in transport, education, housing and facilities.
integration	The opposite of segregation – combining different groups of people fairly.
enslaved person	A person who is forced to work for and obey another and is considered to be their property.
abolish	Formally put an end to.
discrimination	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people.
boycott	To stop doing something in nonviolent protest.

Powerful knowledge

- The enslavement of primarily of Africans and African Americans, was widespread in the United States of America from its founding in 1776 until 1865, predominantly in the Southern states. Enslaved people were exploited to work in the production of crops such as tobacco and cotton. On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation, and on January 1 1863, he made it official that “enslaved people within any state shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” Enslavement was fully abolished in 1865.
- Enslaved people could not legally marry in any North American state. Some enslaved people lived in ‘nuclear’ families in which each family member belonged to the same slave owner. Others lived in ‘near-nuclear’ families in which the father had a different owner than the mother and children. Families were usually separated due to plantation work.
- Many people in the civil rights movement made use of direct action to try and achieve their aims for equality and abolish legalised institutional racial segregation and discrimination throughout North America. Direct action is a form of public protest that includes lots of different methods, such as marches, boycotts, strikes, sit-ins and demonstrations. Members of the civil rights movement took direct action in the hope that it would draw people’s attention to their struggle for equality, and have an impact that people in power could not ignore. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, ordinary people from all over the US undertook lots of different kinds of protest and action to demand equality and an end to racist segregation laws.

What I should already know

- North America is a continent in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The human and physical geographical features of North America.

Learning Journey

- To understand which people were enslaved and why in North America.
- To understand what life was like for an enslaved family.
- To learn who was affected in the Windrush generation.
- To learn more about the American Civil Rights Movement.
- To learn more about the impact of Martin Luther King (Love to Read).

Dr Martin Luther King and his impact

Dr Martin Luther King Jr was a Christian Baptist minister and a leading member of the civil rights movement. In 1955, he became well-known as a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He gave people lifts in his car and was sent to prison for two weeks for his role in the protest.

King believed that non-violent direct action was the best approach to pressuring the government for civil rights reforms. As well as the bus boycott, King supported a number of different direct action protests during the civil rights movement, including:

- Sit-ins by students who were protesting against discrimination in universities,
- Peaceful protest marches,
- Delivering speeches in public.
- In 1963, King led the Washington March for Jobs and Freedom. He stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. and delivered his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech to a crowd of 250,000 people. Many historians believe that this speech played a key part in pressuring the government to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his civil rights work.

