

# The Civil Rights Struggle

## Big Idea

As you read the section summary, complete this graphic organizer by identifying the key laws, presidential orders, and court decisions achieved by the civil rights movement.

Key Civil Rights Legislation				
1.	2.	3. Civil Rights Act of 1964	4.	5.



## Notes

## Read to Learn

### Struggle for Rights (pages 140–141)

#### Identifying the Main Idea

*Think about the main idea of the passage.*

*Then, circle the statement below that best expresses it.*

- *In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act.*
- *Americans continued to fight for civil rights.*
- *Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraged peaceful protest.*

Although the Civil War amendments helped provide equal rights to all Americans, some people continued to treat African Americans unjustly. Such mistreatment is called **discrimination**. Some Southern states passed “Jim Crow” laws that encouraged **segregation**, or the separation of people by race. Another 100 years passed before African Americans could enjoy their **civil rights**, or rights of full citizenship and equality under the law.

Important gains happened in the mid-1900s. In 1948, President Truman ended segregation in the armed forces. In the 1950s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraged people such as Rosa Parks to use peaceful demonstrations to protest discrimination. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, that segregation in public schools was against the Constitution. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, which ended lawful discrimination based on race, gender, and religion.

**The Struggle Continues** (pages 142–143)**Evaluating Information**

List the pros and cons of affirmative action.

Affirmative Action	
Pros	Cons

Although the Fifteenth Amendment had given African American men the right to vote, that vote was not guaranteed until 1964 when the Twenty-fourth Amendment outlawed poll taxes. Then, in 1965, more steps were taken to protect voting rights with the Voting Rights Act.

Civil rights laws of the 1960s improved educational and professional opportunities for African Americans and other minorities. However, members of minority groups still have fewer opportunities than whites.

In the 1970s, the federal government tried to make up for past discrimination through programs known as **affirmative action**. Such programs encourage businesses and schools to hire, advance, and accept more women and minorities. Some people resent these programs. They say that these programs are unfair to whites and to men. Sometimes the Supreme Court agrees. In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled in *Gratz v. Bollinger* that the University of Michigan gave an unfair advantage to minority students who were applying for admission to the school.

Today, the struggle for equal rights continues. Every year, the federal government gets more than 75,000 complaints about discrimination in the workplace. Many Americans are concerned about **racial profiling**, a practice in which police single out suspects based on the way they look. Hate crimes are another problem. Sometimes people are attacked and harmed because of their race, national origin, gender, or disability.

## Section Wrap-up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What social conditions prompted passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

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2. Are peaceful protests an effective means of social change? Explain your position.

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## Descriptive Writing

Examine a photograph of a peaceful civil rights protest. Then, in the space provided, write a descriptive caption for it. Your caption should be at least one paragraph in length. Remember to use sensory details to help readers imagine the scene.

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