

moment in HISTORY

Brown vs. Board of Education

Background

In 1954, most schools in America were still **segregated**, or separated, by skin color. The 1896 *Plessy vs. Ferguson* case made this legal. This case decided that there could be different buildings for blacks and whites as long as the buildings were equal. In the early 1950s, five different people went to court to try to get schools desegregated.

Oliver Brown

One of those five cases was against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. Oliver Brown was the parent of an African-American girl that was not allowed in Topeka's white schools. Brown went to court because all of the schools were not equal. He knew this went against the Constitution. Sadly, Brown lost because the local court said the white and black schools were equal enough. Brown **appealed**, or asked to get the case heard in a higher courtroom, to the Supreme Court.

Off to the Supreme Court

In December 1952, the Supreme Court had four other cases like Brown's case. The Supreme Court put all five together. This case was called *Oliver Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka*. The five cases were put together to show that segregation in public schools was a problem throughout the whole country - not just local towns.

Thurgood Marshall was the lawyer representing the African-American side in the case. He argued that segregation in public schools **violated**, or went against, the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment promised all Americans equal protection. Marshall also

said that separating colored students from White students made the colored students feel less important. The black students did not care about school as much because they felt less important.

Landmark Decision

After many days of listening to both sides, the Supreme Court decided in 1954 that segregation in schools was unequal. The Supreme Court ruled that separating people by skin color could not happen in the public school system. The Supreme Court knew this would make a lot of the southern states mad. So, there was not a set time for schools to be desegregated. This caused desegregation to take a long time. Full integration in southern schools finally happened in the late 1960s and 1970s.

The *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision changed America's schools. It was also one of the most important events leading up to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.



Name _____

close READING & responding

Brown vs. Board of Education

Directions: Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. Explain the impact of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. Cite evidence from the text. (RI 1)

2. Explain how the Supreme Court sent a message about the importance of the segregation issue. (RI 3)

3. Explain the case that Thurgood Marshall made. (RI 3)

4. Explain why integration was a slow process after the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. (RI 3)

close READING & responding

Brown vs. Board of Education

Directions: Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

5. Summarize the main idea of the section "Landmark Decision" in one sentence. (RI2)

CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. How does the text define the 14th Amendment? (RI4)

7. How is the text organized? Describe the text's organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI5)

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the author's overall message of the text? What evidence did the author use in the passage to support her thinking? (RI8)

close READING & responding

Brown vs. Board of Education

Directions: Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. Explain the impact of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. Cite evidence from the text. (RI.1)
2. Explain how the Supreme Court sent a message about the importance of the segregation issue. (RI.3)
3. Explain the case that Thurgood Marshall made. (RI.3)
4. Explain why integration was a slow process after the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. (RI.3)
5. Summarize the main idea of the section "Landmark Decision" in one sentence. (RI.2)

CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. How does the text define the 14th Amendment? (RI.4)
7. How is the text organized? Describe the text's organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI.5)

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the author's overall message of the text? What evidence did the author use in the passage to support her thinking? (RI.8)

close READING & responding

Brown vs. Board of Education

Directions: Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. **Explain the impact of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. Cite evidence from the text. (RI.1)**
In 1954, most schools in America were still segregated, or separated, by skin color. The 1896 *Plessy vs. Ferguson* case made this legal.
2. **Explain how the Supreme Court sent a message about the importance of the segregation issue. (RI.3)**
In December 1952, the Supreme Court put five court cases together. The five cases were put together to show that segregation in public schools was a problem in the whole country - not just in local towns.
3. **Explain the case that Thurgood Marshall made. (RI.3)**
Thurgood Marshall was the lawyer for the African-Americans. He argued that segregation in public schools violated, or went against, the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment said that all Americans had equal protection. Marshall also said that separating colored students from white made the colored students feel less important. The black students did not care about school as much because they felt less important.
4. **Explain why integration was a slow process after the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. (RI.3)**
The Supreme Court knew the southern states would be mad about the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. So, there was not a set time for schools to be desegregated. This caused desegregation to take a long time. Full integration in southern schools finally happened in the late 1960s and 1970s.
5. **Summarize the main idea of the section "Landmark Decision" in one sentence. (RI.2)**
The Supreme Court made an important ruling that segregated schools were not equal, but full integration in southern schools did not happen until the late 1960s and 1970s.

CRAFT & STRUCTURE

6. **How does the text define the 14th Amendment? (RI.4)**
The 14th Amendment said that all Americans had equal protection.
7. **How is the text organized? Describe the text's organizational structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, description, problem/solution). Explain your reasoning. (RI.5)**
The text is organized chronologically. The text describes how the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* case legalized the segregation of schools as background information. Then, the text explains how Oliver Brown's case made it to the Supreme Court and how that later impacted the Civil Rights movement that was brewing.

close READING & responding

Brown vs. Board of Education

Directions: Answer like an A.P.E! Restate part of the question, use complete sentences, cite evidence, and explain.

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

8. What is the author's overall message of the text? What evidence did the author use in the passage to support her thinking? (RI.8)

The *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision changed America's schools. It was also one of the most important events leading up to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The author explained how the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision led to the desegregation of schools, something that African Americans had been fighting for in court since 1896.