

Civil Rights Movement MythBusters Quiz

1. Which of the following was the overarching goal of the Civil Rights Movement?

- A. Integration
- B. Full access to all bus seats
- C. Equality, empowerment, and democracy
- D. 40 acres and a mule

2. Who took steps to petition the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to investigate charges that the United States was violating not just the civil rights, but also the human rights, of African Americans?

- A. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- B. Nelson Mandela
- C. Eleanor Roosevelt
- D. Malcolm X

3. The crucial element enabling progress in winning civil rights was:

- A. Grassroots activism and organizing
- B. National civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. or Roy Wilkins of the NAACP
- C. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- D. The federal government

4. Which of the following is TRUE of Rosa Parks, the woman who helped spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 after being arrested for defying the city's bus segregation laws?

- A. She refused to give up her seat to a white man because she was tired.
- B. Her refusal to give up her seat on December 1, 1955 was her first act of resistance against segregated buses.
- C. As Secretary of the local NAACP chapter and leader of its Youth Group, she had an important history of activism before her action that began the bus boycott.
- D. At the time of this incident, she was an elderly seamstress who had never been politically active.

5. After Rosa Parks was arrested, the Montgomery Bus Boycott was first set in motion when:

- A. The Women's Political Council, under the leadership of Jo Ann Robinson, distributed 35,000 leaflets urging 42,000 black residents of Montgomery to boycott public transportation.
- B. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech to Montgomery's largest black congregation, urging that the buses be boycotted until the bus company agreed to integrate them.
- C. Civil rights lawyers from the Justice Department came to Montgomery and convinced prominent African American ministers to initiate the boycott.
- D. Leaders of Montgomery's black business community urged their employees not to ride the buses.

6. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in 1968, exactly one year to the day after he gave a speech on:

- A. Voting rights
- B. School integration
- C. Fair housing
- D. The Vietnam War

7. The struggle led by John Conyers, Shirley Chisholm, Coretta Scott King, Stevie Wonder, and countless others to make Martin Luther King Jr. birthday a federal holiday, recognized in all states, took how many years?

- A. 1 year
- B. 6 years
- C. 16 years
- D. 32 years

8. What role did the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) most consistently play with regards to the Civil Rights Movement?

- A. They protected African Americans who pursued their constitutional right to vote, attend school, use public transportation, pray, and more.
- B. They collected information, spied on civil rights leaders (including Martin Luther King, Jr.), and spread misinformation.
- C. They collected information on the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party to prevent attacks on Civil Rights Movement activists.
- D. None at all.

9. During the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877), which of following events did NOT occur in the South?

- A. Blacks elected many representatives to state legislatures throughout the South.
- B. Fourteen black representatives and two black senators served in the U.S. Congress.
- C. The integrated Southern state legislatures mandated the establishment of compulsory universal public education for the first time in the South.
- D. The federal government provided each male, freed from slavery, with forty acres and a mule.
- E. All of the above

10. During most of the 20th century, African Americans were prevented from voting by:

- A. Intimidation, economic retaliation, and violence
- B. "Poll taxes" that many poor people could not afford
- C. Legal devices like the "grandfather clause"
- D. Literacy tests
- E. All of the above

11. In 2002, over 50,000 people rallied in the “Mobilization for Public Education” in response to New York City’s proposed cut of \$1 billion from the city’s public school budget. This demonstration was planned and coordinated by:

- A. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- B. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- C. The Green Party
- D. The Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and the United Federation of Teachers
- E. All of the above

12. During the 1960s a free breakfast program for children in Oakland, CA was sponsored by:

- A. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- B. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense
- C. The Big Brother/Big Sister Organization
- D. The National Urban League

13. Which of the following states had the largest Ku Klux Klan membership in the early 1920s?

- A. Mississippi
- B. Georgia
- C. Oregon
- D. South Carolina

14. According to the 2010 federal census, the most segregated city in the United States is:

- A. Detroit, MI
- B. Birmingham, AL
- C. Houston, TX
- D. Macon, GA

15. In addition to African Americans, what other groups were fighting for equal rights and/or self-determination in the 1960s and 1970s?

- A. Chicano/Mexican Americans
- B. Native Americans
- C. Asian Americans
- D. Gays/lesbians
- E. All of the above