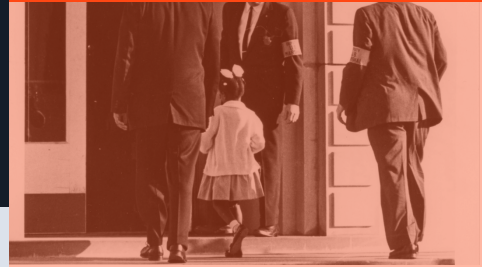


COURAGEOUS STEPS

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE FOR EQUALITY

DATE: APRIL 17, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Teacher Guide



Brown v. Board of Education was a landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court declared state laws establishing separate public schools for Black and white students to be unconstitutional. The decision overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine established in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, ruling that segregation in public education was inherently unequal and violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. The Brown v. Board decision was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, leading to the desegregation of schools and challenging segregation in other areas of society.

The "Brown" in *Brown v. Board of Education* was plaintiff Oliver Brown, who was one of thirteen parents who filed a class-action suit against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Brown joined after his daughter Linda was denied entrance to the all-white Sumner Elementary School in 1951. In 1952, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's chief attorney, Thurgood Marshall combined the Kansas suit with four similar suits from around the country as the consolidated *Brown v Board of Education* to the Supreme Court.

In May of 1954, the Supreme Court issued a unanimous 9–0 decision in favor of the plaintiffs. The Courts ruled that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and, therefore, violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The verdict overturned fifty years of "separate-but-equal" doctrine, but it did not lay out any method for ending racial segregation in schools.

Related Standards

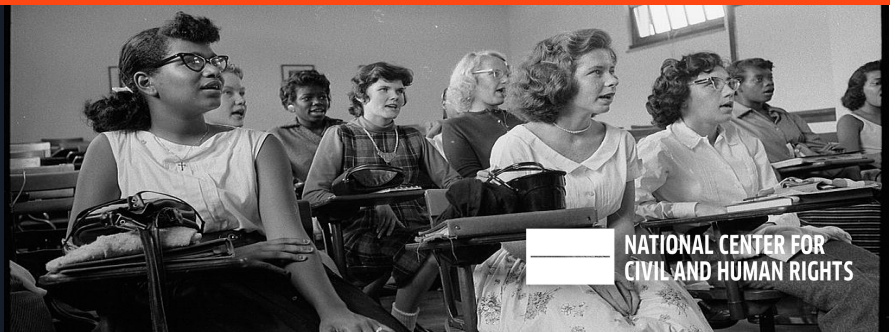
- **SS5H6** Describe the importance of key people, events, and developments between 1950-1975.
- **SS8H11** Evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.
- **SSCG7** Demonstrate knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights.
- **SSUSH20** Analyze U.S. international and domestic policies including their influences on technological advancements and social changes during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations.

Curricular Materials

- [Timeline of Events Leading to the Brown v. Board of Education Decision of 1954](#), National Archives.
- [Brown v. Board of Education \(1954\) Lesson Plan](#), iCivics
- [Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park Curriculum Materials](#), National Park Service.
- ["Separate Is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education" Classroom Guide](#), Smithsonian NMAH

We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. **Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.**

U.S. SUPREME COURT IN BROWN V. BOARD, 1954



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