



### Inspiration

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist Christian minister and Civil Rights leader. He was inspired to peaceful protest by Mahatma Gandhi, an important player in the battle against racism in South Africa and against British rule in India. Gandhi had shown the world that non-violent protest could lead to great change, and King was determined to use these methods to bring civil rights to the USA.

## 1960's USA Knowledge Organiser



<b>discrimination</b>	the unjust treatment of different categories of people
<b>segregation</b>	the enforced separation of different racial groups
<b>boycott</b>	The practice of not using a service or purchasing goods from a company in the hope that the company will change a policy or practice.
<b>sit-in</b>	A protest where people sit down somewhere and refuse to leave.
<b>protest</b>	expressing disapproval of, or objection to, something
<b>non-violence</b>	Their belief that violence should not be used in protests or demonstrations.

### Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

1955 saw the start of the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, decided to take a stand against segregation by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on the bus. Like many of the southern states, Montgomery, Alabama had a segregated bus service with certain seats for whites and others for blacks. Rosa's peaceful refusal to follow this system saw her arrested, an act that sparked huge protest.

The African-American community in Montgomery formed an action group known as the MIA. This group, led by Martin Luther King Jr., boycotted the bus service which nearly bankrupted the company. This peaceful pressure saw the bus company give in and the MIA won a legal battle to have segregation banned on buses throughout the USA.

### The Civil Rights Act

1964 saw an Act that gave black people equal rights in areas such as employment and housing.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 allowed black people to vote in greater numbers than ever before.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 saw further action against discrimination within the housing market.

### Freedom Rides

Many places in the USA refused to follow the new integrated bus rules. In places such as Birmingham, Alabama, this refusal to follow the new laws was met with peaceful protest. African-Americans rode on segregated buses, facing extreme violence as a result. It took pressure from President JF Kennedy to finally stop segregation on buses. 1961 saw the beginning of the 'freedom rides' with the result of 200 freedom riders being jailed.

### The March on Washington

In 1963, King led a march of 20,000 black and 50,000 white people to the centre of American government, Washington D.C. The march was entirely peaceful and culminated with King's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech:

'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.'

This speech led the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.