

Black History Knowledge Organiser

Keywords



Boycott	The practice of not using a service or goods from a company in the hope that the company will change its policy or practice.
Discrimination	Treating one group more unfairly than the other.
Non-violent	The belief that violence should not be used in violence protests or demonstrations.
Segregation	The separation of black and white people in transport, housing and facilities.
Integration	The opposite of segregation. Combining different groups of people fairly.
Racism	prejudice against a person on race.

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.



Martin Luther King

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist Christian minister and Civil Rights leader. King and many civil rights groups led peaceful protests against segregation across America. Marches were frequent, as well as boycotts and sit-ins. On April 4th, 1968 King was shot and killed by James Earl Ray whilst on the balcony of his motel.

King is remembered in an annual National Holiday each January in the USA. On November 13, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law by Newcastle University.



Little Rock Nine and Elizabeth Eckford

In 1957 many southern states in America had refused to create integrated schools. At the Little Rock school in Arkansas, nine black students were stopped by state troops from entering the school. The official reason for this was that the Governor of Arkansas was concerned for their safety, but a direct order from President Eisenhower stood the troops down, allowing the students to attend their lessons.



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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.



Paul Stephenson

Paul Stephenson is a community worker, activist and long-time campaigner for civil rights for the British African-Caribbean community in Bristol, The Bristol Omnibus Company ran buses in the city.

In the 1950s, the company decided to ban Black and Asian people from working on their buses. At the time, it wasn't illegal for companies to treat people in this way. The plan was that a man called Guy Bailey would apply for a job at the Bristol Omnibus Company. Guy was invited for an interview. However, when he arrived for the interview and the company realised that Guy was Black, they pretended there weren't any jobs available. The group announced that they were organising a boycott of all the buses run by the Bristol Omnibus Company.

Black History Timeline

1838	Grey's monument built
1885/86	First black player in north east
1888	Walter Tull born
1955	Rosa Parks bus boycott
1957	Little Rock Nine
1963	Martin Luther King Speech
1963	Paul Stephenson's bus boycott
1967	MLK receives honorary doctorate from Newcastle University
2009	Barack Obama First black president of USA

Walter Tull

Walter Tull was a British soldier in the First World War. He was the first black officer to lead white soldiers into battle. He died in battle in France in 1918.

