Civil Rights Prior to 1954

- Pre-civil war **abolition** movement
- Brief rights of reconstruction
- **Jim Crow Laws** (Segregation) became the law of the South after Reconstruction
- **Plessy v. Ferguson** upheld segregation
- Booker T. Washington and WEB Dubois
- **NAACP** 1909: Founded by WEB Dubois
- **Eleanor Roosevelt** pushed hard for African-American rights in 30’s.

1940’s: A Decade of Progress

- **CORE**: Congress for Racial Equality: pushed nonviolent protest
- **Truman** desegregates the Armed forces and Federal Gov.
- **Jackie Robinson** breaks the color barrier in baseball
- **NAACP** decided to go after segregation by going through the courts.
- Charles Hamilton Houston and **Thurgood Marshall** decided to break “separate but equal” in the courts.
Essential Questions

1. What were the Jim Crow laws?
2. What court case upheld the Jim Crow Laws?
3. How would the NAACP attack segregation?
4. Who was Thurgood Marshall? What did he decide to try to end?

Brown v. Board of Education

- **NAACP** wanted to desegregate elementary and secondary schools
- They used two girl’s cases: **Eliza Briggs and Linda Brown**
- Marshall lost in lower courts
- But this allowed him to take it to the Supreme Court
- Supreme Court researched segregation
- **In 1954** all judges led by Earl Warren that segregation in schools violated **African-American civil rights.**

Little Rock Nine

- Although the Supreme Court ruled against segregation, they came up with **no plan** of how to do it.
- In **Little Rock Arkansas, Central High School** used Arkansas National guard to block African Americas from attending
- For three weeks the **students were denied entrance** by the school, and the **governor** of Arkansas did nothing.
- Since the governor failed to cooperate **Eisenhower sent in Federal troops** to allow the nine to enter school
- For the rest of the school year, the Little Rock Nine endured constant abuse.
Essential Questions
1. Why did earlier court cases have little effect on Segregation?
2. What effect did Brown v. Board of Education have on the country?
3. Who was the chief Justice on the Supreme Court at the time?
4. Who were the Little Rock Nine?

Boycott
- **Brown v. Board of Education** only effected schools.
- In Montgomery, Alabama, African-Americans made up 2/3 of the bus customers but were forced to sit in the back of the bus.
- **Rosa Parks** refused to give up her seat one day. She was arrested.
- **NAACP** realized they could use this arrest to their good.
- They called for a one day boycott of the bus and it was a huge success.

Montgomery Bus Boycott
- The one day was so successful, they decided to continue the boycott and named **Martin Luther King** to head it.
- This was a burden for many African-Americans who depended on the bus.
- The strike also hurt the buses.
- But the boycott continued for a year amidst violence directed from whites.
- Finally the courts declared segregation on buses was illegal, soon buses had to be integrated.
Birth of the SCLC

- The bus boycott inspired African-Americans to do the same and form groups throughout the South
- Soon they formed the **SCLC** (Southern Christian Leadership Conference)
- The Leader would be **Martin Luther King**.
- They were open to all races and faith.
- Most members were Christian clergy, and they favored non-violent methods.

**Essential Questions**

1. What percent of Montgomery’s bus riders were African-Americans?
2. Why did African-Americans boycott the Montgomery buses?
3. Who led the Montgomery bus boycott?
4. Who led the SCLC? What were their methods and who could join?