**Civil Rights Movement Timeline**

**The Civil Rights Movement gave rise to many achievements including passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Although many issues and problems were not resolved, the Civil Rights Movement changed American society and improved the lives of African-Americans, providing new hope and opportunities. Below is a timeline of key events and people that shaped this era of our country’s history.**

1865 – The Civil War ends and 13th Amendment is passed abolishing slavery in the U.S.

1890’s – **Jim Crow laws** become common in many southern states segregating blacks from whites.

1896 – The Supreme Court rules that it is legal for schools to be segregated.

1947 – **Jackie Robinson** becomes the 1st African-American to play major league baseball.

1954 – In the lawsuit, **Brown v. Board of Education**, led by counsel **Thurgood Marshall**, segregation in schools is ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

1955 – **Rosa Parks** is arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus, sparking the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, a 13-month protest lead by Martin Luther King, Jr.

1957 –Nine African-American students, nicknamed the “**Little Rock Nine**”, attend a previously all-white high school in Arkansas. Army troops are sent in to protect them.

1960 – **Ruby Bridges** is the first African-American child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South. For her protection, she is escorted to school by Federal marshals.

1960 – The **Greensboro Sit-Ins** begin when four college students in Greensboro, North Carolina, sit down to eat at the segregated lunch counter at the F.W. Woolworth store. They are refused service but keep their seats which leads to other sit-ins throughout the South to boycott segregation.

1961 – The **Freedom Riders** protest segregation on interstate buses. This challenge to Jim Crow laws in the South is not well-received and leads to violence and arrests.

1963 – The **March on Washington** for jobs and freedom by over 250,000 protesters takes place. Martin Luther King, Jr. gives his “I Have a Dream” speech.

1963 – **President John F. Kennedy** is assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22.

1964 – The **Civil Rights Act** is signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, outlawing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and gender, thus outlawing segregation and Jim Crow laws.

1964 – **Martin Luther King, Jr**. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1964 – The **Freedom Summer** movement is launched in Mississippi to register as many African-American voters as possible. Many of the civil rights activists are white college students from the North who oppose segregation.

1965 – The **Selma Marches**—protesters hold 3 different marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to advocate for voting rights for all. The marches turn violent and several people are injured.

1965 – The **Voting Rights Act** is signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson making it illegal to prevent any citizen from voting regardless of race.

1967 – **Thurgood Marshall** becomes the first African-American Supreme Court Justice.

1968 – **Martin Luther King, Jr**. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4th.

1968 – Senator **Robert Kennedy**, President Kennedy’s brother and key supporter of the Civil Right Movement, is shot and killed on June 6th in California while campaigning for president.