

# Table of Contents

The Fight for Freedom .....	4–5
Trying to Reconstruct the South .....	6–7
Early Court Cases.....	8–9
Topeka or Bust! .....	10–11
Now the Hard Part Begins.....	12–13
Refuse to Ride .....	14–15
Please Sit-In.....	16–17
C for Confrontation.....	18–19
March on Washington .....	20–21
Why Voting Is Important.....	22–23
Different Voices .....	24–25
What Is Black Power? .....	26–27
Others Struggle for Civil Rights.....	28–29
Glossary.....	30
Index.....	31
Image Credits.....	32

## The Fight for Freedom

Imagine there are laws that say you cannot drink from certain water fountains. Restaurants do not serve you. Bus drivers will not let you to sit where you want on their buses. And, all of this is happening because of the color of your skin. These actions are caused by **segregation** (seg-rih-GAY-shuhn). This is how it used to be for African Americans in the United States. Then, some brave individuals began the Civil Rights Movement and life began to change.

How did African Americans end up in America? Long ago, Africans were sold to slave traders. The slave traders shipped their slaves to the Americas. There, the Africans were forced to work for land owners. The slave labor helped America grow.

In 1862, this family of slaves stand in front of their home in South Carolina.



The United States banned slave trade in 1808. But people in America could still buy and sell slaves to each other. **Abolitionists** (ab-uh-LIH-shuhn-istz) knew slavery was wrong and worked to end it once and for all. In 1861, the Civil War began between the North and the South. In the end, the North won the war. And, it was against the law to own slaves. But the African Americans' fight for freedom had just begun.



Dred Scott did not know it at the time, but his case was one of the causes of the Civil War.

### The Amendments

The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery in the United States. The Fourteenth Amendment gave African Americans equal rights and protection. The Fifteenth Amendment made it legal for African American men to vote.

### Dred Scott

In 1856, a slave named Dred Scott sued for his freedom. His owner had moved from a slave state into a free territory. Because of this, Scott claimed that he should be free. The court disagreed and said that Scott had "no rights that the white man was bound to respect."