

# American History

Unit 11 Chapters 41 & 42

# Some Brave Children Meet a Roaring Bull

Unit 11: A Turbulent Time  
**Chapter 41 (pages 186-189)**



Unit 11: A Turbulent Time

**Chapter 42: Standing with Lincoln (pages 190-193)**

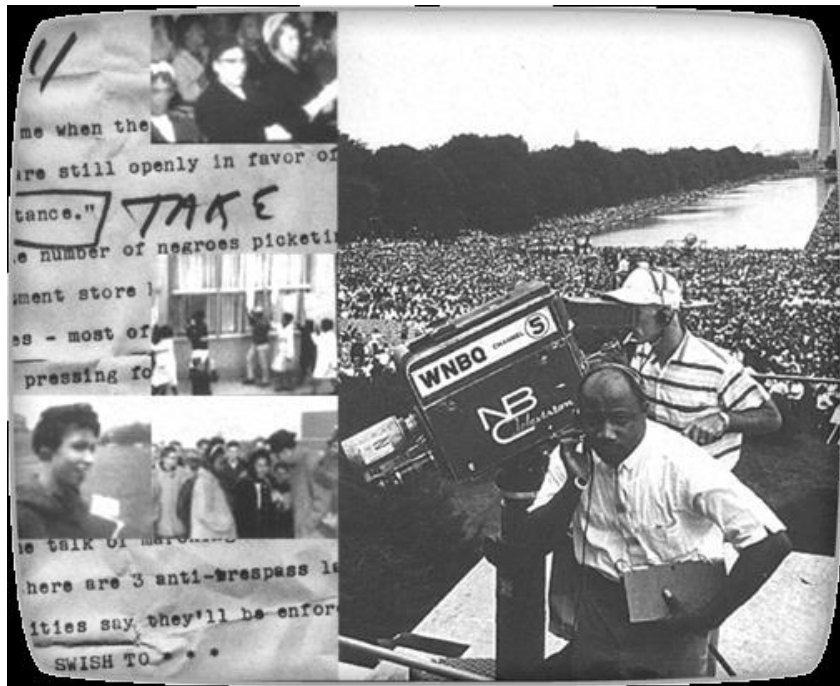
# The Civil Rights Movement

- The civil rights movement was gaining momentum in the South. Media coverage of police brutality was winning support for the demonstrators' goals. A rally in Washington, D.C., might convince Congress to pass a civil rights bill—but how many people would come?? How many people would care enough to make the trip?
- Southern blacks had waited a **hundred years for equality**, and they did not want to wait any longer. Black leaders organized demonstrations and protests. Their **efforts—and television—took their message into nearly every home in the country.**



100 Years  
LATER!

# Birmingham Alabama: What helped the Civil Rights movement?



- This is what happened: Birmingham's black citizens were marching, protesting, and demonstrating. They wanted the same rights as everyone else. They wanted to be able to eat in any restaurant. They wanted an end to segregation. They wanted to vote. Those were all their civil rights. They were demonstrating peacefully and nonviolently, but Bull Connor threw them in jail.

# Letter from Birmingham Jail

Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote a letter from the Birmingham jail. He addressed it to eight clergymen—Christian ministers and a Jewish rabbi—who had criticized the civil rights demonstrations and wondered why Dr. King had come to Birmingham. Here is part of what King said...

*“I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.... I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.... What affects one directly affects all indirectly. There are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws.... One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly, and with a willingness to accept the penalty. I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law”*

- The highest respect for the law...
- Do you agree? Does one who breaks a law that they feel is unjust is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law?



# Children!! NO WAY!

- Some 600 children there marched out of church singing, and Bull Connor arrested them all. The next day another 1,000 children began a peaceful march. Connor called out his police dogs. Firemen turned on high-pressure hoses. The fire hoses were so strong they ripped bark off trees. When the water hit the children they were thrown on the ground and rolled screaming down the street. Television cameras hummed and people, worldwide, saw what was happening to Birmingham's children. Police dogs bit three teenagers so badly they had to be taken to the hospital. A small girl and her mother who knelt to pray on the steps of City Hall were arrested and taken to jail. Seventy-five children were squeezed into a cell built for eight prisoners. They sang freedom songs.



Watch the video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCxE6i\\_SzoQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCxE6i_SzoQ)

- 1) Describe what happened in Birmingham.
- 2) What role did children play in the Civil Rights Movement?

# Civil Rights Groups

- The **NAACP** (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), were at their best working through the courts and trying to change the laws. That was a slow process; it took skilled leadership. The lawyer **Thurgood Marshall** and the labor chief **A. Philip Randolph** were that kind of leader.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, had helped organize the **SCLC** (the Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Its appeal was to the mass of moderate church going blacks; most of its leaders were ministers.
- But many young people were impatient with both of these approaches, which seemed too slow-moving. They formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee—the **SNCC**, which people pronounced as “snick.” SNCC and the Congress for Racial Equality (**CORE**) organized many of the sit-ins in college communities.
- Some black groups wanted to fight with fists, weapons, and anger. Everyone knew that if they got their way, much of the high purpose of the civil rights movement would be lost. Leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., had made civil rights a cause for all Americans.



Martin Luther King Jr helped organize  
what organization?

- a) **The NAACP** ( National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
- b) **The SCLC** (the Southern Christian Leadership Conference).
- c) **The Black Panther Party.**

- On August 28, 1963, there would be a march for freedom in Washington, D.C. Black leaders hoped that 100,000 people would participate. The marchers were going to demand four things:
  - passage of the civil rights bill;
  - integration of schools by year's end;
  - an end to job discrimination;
  - and a program of job training.

“We can’t wait any longer. Now is the time.”

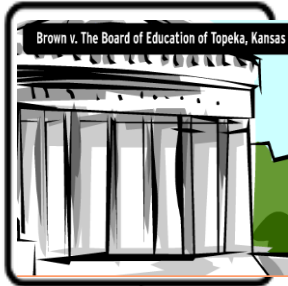
- More than 250,000 people, including 60,000 whites, gathered in Washington, D.C., to demand an end to racial inequality in America



# The March

- It was a day filled with song, and hope, and good will. Finally, in the late afternoon, the last of the speakers stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. It was Martin Luther King, Jr. He began with a prepared speech, which was formal and dignified, as was his nature. Then something happened inside him. Perhaps he responded to the crowd. Perhaps his training as a preacher took over. Whatever it was, he left his written speech and began talking from his heart. “I have a dream,” he said. “I have a dream that one day down in Alabama...little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today!”

# Let's Review!



# Almost Done....

- Exit ticket
  - Name 2 Organizations that fought for the advancement of African Americans during this time.
  - What 4 things did marchers demand?
  - What was Police Chief's name in Birmingham?