

A timeline of the progress towards racial equality in the United States

1. Choose at least 10 events from the list below (or from your own research) and create a to-scale timeline that demonstrates the gaps and spaces in this progress.

July 8, 1777	Vermont (a sovereign nation at the time) was the first future American state to abolish slavery.
1780	Pennsylvania becomes the first then-U.S.-state to abolish slavery.
March 3, 1820	The Missouri Compromise is enacted; slavery is banned everywhere north of Missouri, but is still legal in the southern United States.
September 17, 1849	Harriet Tubman escapes slavery in Maryland and spends the next several years helping more than 300 people escape to free territory by way of the Underground Railroad.
March 6, 1857	Supreme court upholds slavery in the decision of Dred Scott vs Stanford. In that decision people of African descent (whether free or slaves) were not protected under the constitution and were not U.S. citizens. This is thought to be one of the worst decisions that the Supreme Court ever made.
April 12, 1861	The Civil War begins. By the end of the war, April 9, 1865, more than 180,000 African Americans, mostly from the South, fought with the Union Army and Navy.
July 17, 1862	Congress gives President Abraham Lincoln the green light to allow black people to join the military.
January 1, 1863	Emancipation proclamation goes into effect. Lincoln had ordered that all enslaved people in the 10 states that were in rebellion were freed.
December 18, 1865	The Thirteenth Amendment is passed and slavery is officially abolished from the United States.
April 15, 1865	President Abraham Lincoln, the president who abolished slavery, is assassinated.
April 9, 1866	The Civil Rights Act of 1866 is passed. All persons born in the United States are now citizens.
June 13, 1868	Ex-slave Oscar Dunn becomes Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana.
July 28, 1868	The Fourteenth Amendment is passed giving black citizens in America full citizenship.
February 3, 1870	The right to vote is granted to all American males (other than Native Americans), regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude (so even men who had previously been slaves could now vote).
March 1, 1875	Civil Rights Act is passed giving all black citizens the right to equal treatment in public and on any public transportation.
November 26, 1883	US Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act to be unconstitutional because laws covered by the Civil Rights Act should be left up to individual states, not the federal government. Individual states now again allowed to discriminate in any way they want against black citizens.
1916	The Great Migration begins and lasts until 1940. Approximately one and a half million African-Americans move from the Southern United States to the North and Midwest.
1917	In the same year that the United States enters World War I, anti-black riots are held in St. Louis, Illinois and more than 100 black citizens are either killed or injured. More than 10,000 black New Yorkers hold the Silent Parade to protest the violence.

December 8, 1936	The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sues the government to make them pay black and white teachers equal salaries.
1940	The Second Great Migration of more than 5 million blacks begins and lasts until 1970. More than 5 million African Americans leave the violence and segregation of the South for jobs, education, and the chance to vote in northern, midwestern and California cities.
June 3, 1946	US Supreme Court bans segregation of black and white people on public transit.
July 26, 1948	President Harry S. Truman issues Executive Order 9981 ordering the end of segregation in the Armed Forces.
May 17, 1954	The Supreme Court ruled that the "separate but equal" educational philosophy was unconstitutional. (<i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kans.</i>)
Civil Rights - December 1, 1955	Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasts over a year.
September 24, 1957	Nine black students integrate with white students at Central High School in Little Rock, AR. President Dwight Eisenhower sends the paratroopers in to ward off any violence.
August 28, 1963	More than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington, DC, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech.
1964	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
April 4, 1968	Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN, where had gone to give a speech to striking garbage workers.
1978	Unita Blackwell, founding member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, becomes the first black woman mayor in the history of Mississippi in the city of Mayersville. She had once been denied the right to vote there.
1983	Vanessa Williams is crowned the first black Miss America.
January 15, 1986	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated as a federal holiday for the first time.
1999	NAACP launches a campaign against TV networks to increase number of minorities in shows.
2000	Colin Powell becomes the first black US Secretary of State.
March 24, 2002	Halle Berry becomes first African American woman to win an Oscar for best actress.
January 20, 2009	Barack Obama becomes first African American president of the United States.

There were a lot more events in this timeline that were relevant and powerful. Feel free to do your own research and add some events to your timeline.

2. On a separate piece of paper, make 5 observations about the gaps, speed, and density of events in our evolution towards racial equality. Be prepared to share these observations with your class.

Source: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/mlk/tguide/index.html>
<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/3015-civil-rights-movement-timeline>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_American_Civil_Rights_Movement