Civil Rights Movement in Pictures

School Segregation Protest
1954, St. Louis, MO. Protest march against the segregation of U.S. schools.
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Mother and Daughter at U.S. Supreme Court
May 1954, Washington, DC. On the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, Nettie Hunt explains to her daughter, Nickie, the meaning of the high court’s ruling in Brown v. Board of Education.
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Journalists Reading Newspapers
May 17, 1954, Atlanta, GA. William Gordon (right), managing editor of the Atlanta Daily World and pressman, Kimber Boddie, check a copy of the Memphis World carrying the story of the Supreme Court’s decision to end segregation in public schools.
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Children-The First Day Of Desegregation
September 8, 1954, Fort Myer, VA. Following a Defense Department order ending segregation, a black and a white third grader face each other on the first day of racial desegregation in Fort Myer Elementary School, which is operated for children of military personnel.
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School Integration, Barnard School
May 27, 1955, Washington, DC. A line of African American and white school girls standing in a classroom while boys sit behind them.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-U9- 183B-20

School Integration Conflicts
December 4, 1956, Clinton, TN. African-American boys walking through a crowd of white boys during a period of violence related to school integration.
Black Students Integrate Little Rock’s Central High School
September 6, 1957, Little Rock, AK. Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine black students whose admission to Little Rock’s Central High School was ordered by a Federal Court following legal action by NAACP legal defense fund attorneys. Donated and copyrighted by Corbis – Bettmann

African American Students Enter High School with Military Escort
September 26, 1957, Little Rock, AK. African-American students walk up the steps of Little Rock Central High School, flanked by soldiers carrying out President Eisenhower’s orders to enforce a Federal Court ruling to integrate Little Rock Central High School. Donated and copyrighted by Corbis – Bettmann

Robert F. Wagner with Little Rock Students

Thurgood Marshall and Little Rock Students
August 22, 1958, Washington, DC. Lawyer Thurgood Marshall and civil rights activist Daisy Bates join several members of the “Little Rock Nine,” the first students to integrate Central High School. Donated and copyrighted by Corbis – Bettmann

Little Rock Rally at State Capitol

US Marshals with Ruby Bridges Leaving William Frantz Elementary School
1960 c., New Orleans, LA. After a federal court ordered the desegregation of schools in the South, U.S. Marshals escort a young Ruby from school while segregationist protests continued. Marshals also escorted Bridges to school.
Nearly Empty Desegregated School
September 5, 1962, Englewood, NJ. African-American students sit in a nearly empty classroom in newly desegregated Lincoln School during a boycott by students protesting desegregation.
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James Meredith Ole Miss Integration
October 1, 1962, Mississippi. James Meredith walking to class at Mississippi University accompanied by U.S. marshals.

Demonstrators Protest School Segregation
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Vivian Malone Leaving Class
June 12, 1963, Tuscaloosa, AL. Vivian Malone, one of the first African-American students to attend the University of Alabama, exits a building on campus where she attended her first class.
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Merlie Evers Speaking at Microphone
August 25, 1963, Washington, DC. Merlie Evers, widow of the slain integrationist leader Medgar Evers, is shown addressing a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Rally at Howard University.
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Mother Removing Child from Desegregated School
September 16, 1963, Graymont School, Birmingham, AL. A young child walks with his angry mother as she removes him from Graymont School in Birmingham, which has just become desegregated.
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Civil Rights March
September 28, 1963, Washington, DC. A procession of African Americans carrying signs for equal rights, integrated schools, decent housing and an end to bias.
Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Civil Rights March in Washington, DC
September 28, 1963. A crowd of African Americans and whites surrounding the Reflecting Pool during Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.
Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Fair Housing Protest
May 10, 1964, Seattle, WA. Participants of the CORE-sponsored demonstration sitting in front of realtor office of Picture Floor Plans, Inc.
Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection, Records of the Office of the Mayor, #63897
Fair Housing Protest
May 10, 1964, Seattle, WA. Participants of the CORE-sponsored demonstration sitting in front of realtor office of Picture Floor Plans, Inc. Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection, Records of the Office of the Mayor, #63905

Fair Housing Protest
May 10, 1964, Seattle, WA. Participants of the CORE-sponsored demonstration inside the realtor office of Picture Floor Plans, Inc. Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection, Records of the Office of the Mayor, #63902

Lyndon Johnson signing Civil Rights Act
July 2, 1964, Washington, DC. President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the 1964 Civil Rights Act as Martin Luther King, Jr., and others look on.

Civil Rights March from Selma to Montgomery
1965, Montgomery, AL. Blacks and whites marching for civil rights. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-prmssa-08102

Civil Rights March from Selma to Montgomery
1965, Montgomery, AL. Some participants in the civil rights march sitting on a wall resting. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ6-2329

Abernathy Children Lead Marchers for Right to Vote 1965. Civil Rights Movement Co-Founder Dr. Ralph David Abernathy and his wife Mrs. Juanita Abernathy follow with Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. as the Abernathy children march on the front line, leading the Selma to Montgomery March. Courtesy of Donzaleigh Abernathy on behalf of the Abernathy Family/CC BY-SA 4.0

We March with Selma!
March 15, 1965, New York City, NY. Marchers lead the way as 15,000 parade on street in Harlem. Library of Congress, New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection, Reproduction Number LC-USZ6-135695

Signing of the Voter Rights Act
August 6, 1965. President Johnson and Martin Luther King, Jr. at the signing of the Voting Rights Act.

Class of African American and white school children
South Boston HS Desegregation Busing
1974, Boston, MA. African-American students boarding bus as part of Phase I plan to remedy school desegregation in Boston.
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Only African-American Student Attending School
August 12, 1974, Boston, MA. Black student Valerie Banks is the only student in class at a predominately all white South Boston High School as thousands of families boycott court ordered desegregation schools.
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Black and White Female Students Holding Hands
September 15, 1975, Boston, MA. A black and a white student grasp hands as their school bus pulls up in front of Charlestown High School during the second week of the phase 2 school integration of Boston, where a marked increase in attendance among whites previously boycotting classes has been reported.
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