Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

Pre-Visit Booklet



"We believe that what is happening in Little Rock transcends the question of segregation versus integration.

It is a question of right against wrong, a question of respect against defiance of laws,

a question of democracy against tyranny."

-Daisy Gatson Bates, Arkansas State Press, November 8, 1957

Dear Educator:

Welcome to the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service since 1998. It is the mission of the National Park Service to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations, Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and its role in the integration of public schools and the development of the Civil Rights movement in the United States.

In 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously declared in a landmark court case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, that it was unconstitutional to create separate schools for children on the basis of race. The *Brown* ruling ranks as one of the most important Supreme Court decisions of the 20th century. At the time of the decision, 17 southern states and the District of Columbia required that all public schools be racially segregated. A few northern and western states, including Kansas, left the issue of segregation up to individual school districts. While most schools in Kansas were integrated in 1954, the elementary schools in Topeka were not.



In 1957, the *Brown* decision affected citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas, when nine African American students chose to attend the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School. For months, the attention of the state, nation, and world were turned to Arkansas and the heroic efforts of nine teenage students and local civil rights leaders as they fought for equality in central Arkansas' educational system. The desegregation, which officially occurred under federal troop protection on September 25, 1957, set a precedent for many other communities and states to follow.

It is for this reason that Little Rock's Central High School is an important venue for social and political history. While you are at the site, please take time to see the Visitor Center and its exhibit, "All the World Is Watching Us: Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis," the cultural landscape of Central High School, and the Commemorative Garden to learn more about the civil rights movement in Little Rock and throughout the United States.

This is your pre-visit guide. Please use it to prepare your students for visiting the historic site. Vocabulary, information about civil rights, and resources are listed in this package, as well as useful information about parking, hours of visitation, etc. If you have any questions before your visit, please call the Interpretive Park Rangers at the historic site at (501) 374-1957 or e-mail at CHSC_Visitor_Center@nps.gov We look forward to seeing you soon!

Information For Your Visit:

Guided Group Visits (approximately 30-45 minutes long) are offered from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. weekdays. Other times are available upon advance request.

Guided Group Visits for **more than ten (10) persons** are scheduled by reservation. Please call the Visitor Center at (501) 374-1957 to schedule a tour (please have two dates and times in mind when calling).

Guided Group Visits include the Visitor Center and the exhibit

"All The World Is Watching Us: Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis." They also have the opportunity (time permitting) to visit the Commemorative Garden and the historic district of Little Rock Central High School (Little Rock Central High School, Ponder's Drug Store, and Quigley Stadium). Special programs are available, please call (501) 374-1957 to receive current listing.



Central High School Group Tours

A tour of specific areas of Little Rock Central High School must be arranged with the Interpretive Park Rangers **two weeks in advance**. These tours are done at **strict times** since the high school has students and classes between August and May. The schedule of tours will relate to the bell schedules. Please be flexible with your hours and days if you wish to have one of these

FIELD TRIP

tours since they are not given every day. The tour includes areas of the building where specific events related to the Little Rock Nine occurred. No self-guided tours are allowed at Little Rock Central High School. Also, no purses, backpacks, pocket knives, fanny packs, etc., are allowed in the building.

Self-Guided Tours

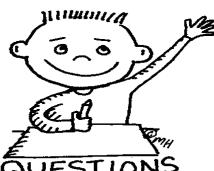
Visitors may also engage in self-guided tours of the Visitor Center, Commemorative Garden, and historic district of Little Rock Central High School at any time. However, it is recommended that any group with ten (10) or more persons call for a Guided Tour.

Pre-Visit Information:

Hours of Operation and Public Use

The Visitor Center at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is open Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.





General Visitor Center Policies

- No food, drinks, or gum are allowed inside the exhibit area.
- · Smoking is not permitted in any part of the Visitor Center.
- The use of ink pens is not allowed in the exhibit gallery at any time.
- To ensure a meaningful experience for all of our visitors, cell phones and pagers must be on silent or vibrate modes (these items are not allowed inside the high school).

Chaperones

- · All youth/students (ages 6-17) must be accompanied by adult chaperones at all times.
- · It is the responsibility of adult chaperones to stay with their youth/student groups and to assure the well-being of the students, other visitors, and the exhibitions.

What to Bring to the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site:

- * For security and safety reasons, limit the items you and your group bring into the Visitor Center.
- *Packages, backpacks, briefcases, and other large items cannot be brought into the exhibit hall and must be stored in vehicles.
- * For school groups a limited number of bag lunches may be stored on-site and eaten on the side lawn.

Fees

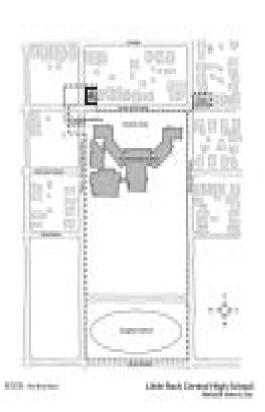
There is NO fee for the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site! Free admission.

Parking

- There is a parking lot for cars on the east side of the Visitor Center at 2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive (see map).
- There is parking for buses in front of the Visitor Center at 2125 Daisy Gatson Bates Drive or along the side of the street facing Little Rock Central High School on South Park Street (see map).

Cancellations and Late Arrivals (call 501-374-1957)

- · Please call the Visitor Center at least 48 hours before the scheduled visit if your group must cancel.
- · If your group expects to be delayed, please inform the Visitor Center with your estimated time of arrival.
- Interpretive Park Rangers may not be available to provide tours for groups arriving more than 20 minutes late.







Junior Ranger Program (grades 4-8)

The Junior Ranger Program was instituted by the National Park Service to connect young visitors with the resources of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and other national parks. At the park, youth receive a self-discovery workbook that must be completed at the park Visitor Center and within the historic district. The story of Little Rock Central High School and civil rights are explored through a timeline activity, fill in the blank, matching, word search, architectural renderings, and contemplation exercises. Complete three activities and receive a Junior Ranger Badge and Certificate. This activity is appropriate for most ages, but is not part of the scheduled tour.

Interpretation at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site:

There are six interpretive themes that the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site interprets. Interpretation is an educational activity designed to provoke thought and curiosity, convey messages, encourage emotional connections, and help people to enjoy, appreciate, and protect park resources and values. They provide the basis for interpretive programs and media. The six primary interpretive themes developed for Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site are described below:

- The Event: The integration of Little Rock's Central High School was a landmark battle in the struggle for civil rights. It forced the people of a city and a nation to confront themselves on the issue of discrimination, created an international problem for the country by exposing racism in American society, pitted federal upholding of constitutional civil rights against states' rights of self- governance, and provided a foundation for supporting and forgoing new attitudes of racial tolerance.
- The Civil Rights Movement: The events of 1957-1958 constituted one of many battles in the ongoing struggle for equal rights. The integration of Central High School was the first prominent implementation of the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision by the United States Supreme Court. Subsequent events have demonstrated that racial discrimination will not be obliterated or quickly erased.
- Which provided for "Assistance for the Removal of Obstruction of Justice within the state of Arkansas," represented a national commitment to enforce civil rights. It was one of the few times that a president has exercised his right to use executive power to contravene state authority on behalf of civil rights for African-Americans.
- Equal Rights: In the Declaration of Independence, the United States proclaimed as its founding philosophy a commitment to certain "self evident truths," including that "all men are created equal." Almost 200 years later, and after several Constitutional amendments that strengthened and clarified that commitment, events at Little Rock Central High School put it to a monumental test.
- The School: Little Rock Central High School is more than a building. It is a symbol of excellence in education, an architectural achievement, the end of a segregated school system, and humanity at its best and worst.
- The City and The State: As the relatively progressive capital of a southern state with several integrated institutions including the library, public buses, parks, and the University of Arkansas graduate schools Little Rock seemed an unlikely site for civil unrest over the issue of school integration. However, a series of events in the state exposed significant white opposition to desegregation and created an explosive situation.



"All The World Is Watching Us: Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis"

A visit to the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site fulfills the following requirements for teaching Arkansas history and United States social studies:

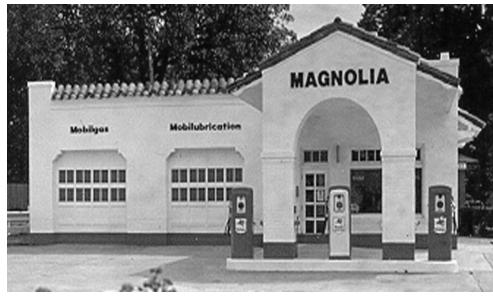
Arkansas History Frameworks: (grades K-4) TCC1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, PPE1.3, 2.1, PAG1.1, 1.2,1.3, 1.4, SSPS1.2, (grades 5-8) TCC1.3, 1.4, PAG1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, SSPS1.2, 1.4, (grades 9-12) TCC1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, PPE1.1, PAG4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, SSPS1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6

U.S. Social Studies Frameworks (as per Arkansas Department of Education): (grades K-4) TCC_{I.I}, I.2, I.3, I.5, 2.2, 2.3, PPEI.I, I.3, I.4, PAGI.I, I.2, I.4, I.5, 2.I, 2.2, 2.3, SSPSI.I, I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, I.6, I.7, 2.2, (grades 5-8) TCC_{I.I}, I.2, I.4, 2.2, 2.3, PPEI.4,I.7, I.8, PDC_{I.7}, PAGI.I, I.2, I.5, I.6, I.8, 2.I, 2.4, 2.6, SSPSI.2.

Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation

Tour Objectives:

- To identify major events and persons associated with the 1957 integration crisis at Little Rock Central High School;
- To analyze federal legislation leading up to and including the constitutional amendments (13th 15th), Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), and Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision (1954);



Magnolia Mobil Gas Station, site of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Visitor Center.

- To assess and differentiate the facilities and services available to African-American and white citizens/students prior to 1957 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and throughout the South;
- · To contrast the actions and authority of both the federal and state governments in the 1957 integration crisis at Little Rock Central High School (e.g., use of the Arkansas National Guard, the United States Army, and federalizing of the Arkansas National Guard);
- · To appreciate the cultural landscape of the Little Rock Central High School historic district (e.g.: the Commemorative Garden and the school).

Exhibit Panels and Timeline from the 1957 Crisis'

A TIME OF COURAGE & FEAR 1957-1958

SEPTEMBER

APPLY The World Is Watching Usi. Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis'

ATIME OF COURAGE & FEAR 1957-1958

Exhibit Highlights

- "All Men Are Created Equal?" includes segregation before 1896 and highlights the antebellum years, Civil War, constitutional amendments (13th 15th), and *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
- "Can Separate Be Equal?" focuses on the separate facilities for African-Americans in Arkansas versus those given to whites (e.g.: Dunbar High School and Little Rock Senior High School (later renamed Little Rock Central High School)).
- "Struggle for Decision" looks at Little Rock schools at the time of the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision in 1954.
- "A Time of Courage and Fear" examines the 1957-1958 school year, integration, a timeline of events, and how the city of Little Rock reacted to events at the high school.
- "The Lost Year, 1958-1959" analyzes the closure of all Little Rock high schools to prevent integration, the development of the Women's Emergency Committee, and the purge of teachers who supported desegregation.
- "The Continuing Struggle" looks at Little Rock schools in the post -1959 years and the present day battle for desegregation.



Brief Historical Overview

Little Rock Central High School, the symbol of the end of racially segregated public schools in the United States, was the site of the first important test for the implementation of the United States Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision of May 17, 1954. This Supreme Court decision declared that segregation in public education was an unconstitutional violation of the "equal protection of the laws" clause in the Fourteenth Amendment.

On the morning of September 2, 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, ordered the Arkansas National Guard to block nine African-American students from entering the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School to, in his words, to prevent violence. Faubus's actions on that day directly questioned the inviolability of the federal court system and the validity of the Supreme Court's 1954 desegregation ruling. As a result, the Little Rock controversy was the first fundamental test of the national resolve to enforce African-American civil rights in the face of massive southern defiance during the period following the *Brown* decision.

For several weeks after the nine students first attempted to enter Little Rock Central High School, crowds of segregationists gathered outside the school to protest. Therefore, the incidents at the high school during the fall of 1957 drew international attention as Little Rock became the epitome of state resistance. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower was compelled by white mob violence in September of 1957 to call in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, he became the first president since Reconstruction to use federal force in support of African-American civil rights.

Although the nine students entered the school, many of them endured racism and violence throughout the school year from some of their fellow students. However, in the spring of 1958, Ernest Green, one of the nine students, was the first African-American to graduate from Little Rock Central High School. In the audience on that graduation day was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

After the crisis, Governor Faubus, using newly-passed state legislation, shut down all four of Little Rock's public high schools. After a public vote on desegregation, the schools were closed for the 1958-1959 school year. This was called the "Lost Year." In order to combat Faubus' actions, a local organization called the Women's Emergency Committee to Reopen Our Schools (WEC) organized and, with other citizens, felt that obeying the law as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court was the key to reopening the schools. As a result, high schools reopened in August of 1960. In the following decades, such events as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Affirmative Action, and various desegregation plans have been implemented in the school districts of Pulaski County, but the fight for equality and desegregation of schools continues in various forms today with court cases still being heard at the federal court level.

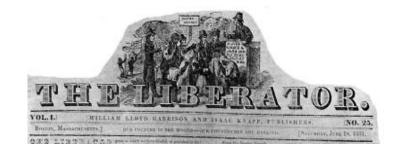
Civil Rights Timeline

1619: First slaves imported on Dutch ships to Jamestown, Virginia.

1774: Continental Congress calls for an end to slavery.

1775-1783: American Revolution; African-Americans serve in the Continental Army in return for freedom from slavery.

1787: Three-Fifths Compromise establishes that five slaves count as the equivalent of three whites for the purpose of representation in Congress.



1788: United States Constitution ratified and provides that slave trade imports will be banned in 1808.

1793: U.S. Congress adopts first Fugitive Slave Law, which extradites runaway slaves to owners and made it a criminal offense to protect a fugitive slave.

1800: Underground Railroad helps over 100,000 slaves escape between 1800 and 1860.

1803: Louisiana Purchase adds over 800,000 square miles of land to the United States.*

1807: Act to Prohibit the Importation of Slaves bans importation of African slaves.

1817: American Colonization Society founded to resettle freed slaves in Africa, mostly in Liberia.

1820: Missouri Compromise forbids slavery in the lands of the Louisiana Purchase north of the 36 degree 30 minute latitude.

1831: William Lloyd Garrison begins printing the antislavery newspaper, The Liberator; New England Antislavery Society is founded.

1833: American Antislavery Society founded by New York and New England abolitionists; Female Antislavery Society founded by Lucretia Mott.

1836: Arkansas becomes a slaveholding state in the Union (25th).

1838: Frederick Bailey escapes slavery and changes name to Frederick Douglass.

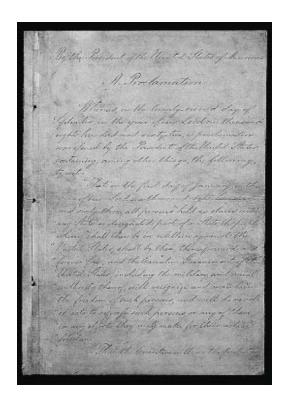
1840: World Anti-Slavery Convention in England.

1843: Former slave, Sojourner Truth, begins lecturing around the country against slavery and for women's rights.

1849: Roberts v. City of Boston declared segregation of white and black children in schools were legal (later overturned by a state law); California writes constitution prohibiting slavery for statehood.

* Indicates Arkansas related event.

Photo: William Lloyd Garrison's The Liberator, ca. 1832. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



1850: Compromise of 1850 established popular sovereignty for new western states and created stringent slave laws.

1853: Little Rock's first public school for white students opens (Common Schools Act of 1843).

1855: Black Codes established to severely limit the freedom of former slaves – they continue until 1866.

1857: Dred Scott v. Sandford decision denies United States citizenship to African-Americans.

1860: Abraham Lincoln elected president without a single electoral vote from a slave state.

1861: The American Civil War begins; Arkansas secedes from the Union in May.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves held in rebelling states on January 1st.

1865: Civil War ends and Reconstruction begins; Thirteenth Amendment abolishes slavery; Freedmen's Bureau founded to assist ex-slaves with food, clothing, provisions, and medical and economic help.

1866: Freedmen's Bureau Act expands power to establish courts to prosecute violations of African-American civil liberties, construct schools, and pay teachers; Civil Rights Act passed to give full citizenship to all persons "without regard to previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude."

1868: Fourteenth Amendment guarantees citizenship and civil rights to all Americans; Arkansas readmitted to the Union; Arkansas Constitution calls for free, public education for black and white children.

1869: Fifteenth Amendment guarantees all male citizens the right to vote.

1870 -1871: Ku Klux Klan Acts passed to combat violence by the KKK; Hiram Revels of Mississippi becomes first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate.

1875: Second Civil Rights Acts recognizes that all persons are equal before the law.

1877: Reconstruction ends and thousands of African-Americans leave the rural South for Oklahoma and Kansas.

1883: Civil Rights Cases invalidate the provisions of the Civil Rights Acts of 1875.

1891: Tillman Separate Coach Law passes in Arkansas State Legislature.

1896: Plessy v. Ferguson decision establishes doctrine of "separate but equal."

1899: Cumming v. Richmond County Board of Education rules that public school education is within the purview of the state rather than federal government.



1908: Berea College v. Kentucky declares that all private educational institutions must abide by the segregation laws of the state; African-American boxer Jack Johnson wins the world heavyweight title.

1909: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) established to advance the rights of African-Americans.

1910: The NAACP prints *The Crisis*, which is edited by W.E.B. DuBois.

1914: World War I begins in Europe; Great Migration of African-Americans out of the rural South to northern cities begins. Over 500,000 migrate for better opportunities.

1916: Black activist, Marcus Garvey, establishes "Back to Africa" movement.

1917: United States enters World War I.

1919: Race riots occur in Elaine, Arkansas (Phillips County).

1920s: Ku Klux Klan reestablished in the North and Midwest to intimidate African-Americans, Catholics, and Jews.

1924: Bonds for construction of the new Little Rock Senior High School are sold.

1927: Little Rock Senior High School opens its doors to 1,800 high school and junior college students; the school is called "the most expensive school ever constructed in the United States."

1929: Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, the high school for black students is opened (named for the "Negro poet laureate, Paul Laurence Dunbar and housed junior high school, high school, and junior college students).

1931: Dunbar High School receives accreditation from the North Central Accreditation Association, the only black school in the state to be accredited at the time.

1933: NAACP begins to attack segregation in education at the graduate and professional levels through legal suits.

1935: NAACP launches full-scale campaign against legal injustices suffered by African-Americans; National Council of Negro Women organized.

1936: Thurgood Marshall joins NAACP legal staff; *University of Maryland v. Murray* orders that black students be admitted to state's white law school.



Several of the Little Rock Nine escorted by the Arkansas National Guard, 1957.

1938: Gaines v. Missouri declares that State of Missouri must build a law school for blacks or desegregate the white school.

1940: Only five percent of African-Americans in the South are eligible to vote.

1941: United States enters World War II; President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issues executive order to ban discrimination in government and defense industries.

1942: First sit-in to end discrimination and segregation held at the Jack Spratt restaurant in Chicago by the Congress of Racial Equality; Dunbar High School teacher, Susie Morris, files suit in federal court for payment of an equal salary scale as that of white teachers.

1943: Race riots break out in some 50 cities across the United States, including Detroit and Harlem in New York.

1948: President Harry S. Truman signs executive order ending segregation in the military and discrimination in the civil service.

1949: William Hastie becomes first African-American federal judge; *McLaurin v Oklahoma State Regents* and *Sweatt v Painter* cases are heard by the United States Supreme Court for black students seeking to enter the graduate school at the University of Oklahoma and the law school at the University of Texas; the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., requests that the Supreme Court overturn the 1896 *Plessy* decision.

1950: McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for High Education and Sweatt v. Painter establishes that segregation in higher education is unconstitutional.

1952: Initial arguments for Brown v. Board of Education heard before United States Supreme Court; Only 28% of African-Americans eligible to vote are registered.

1953: Little Rock Senior High School renamed Little Rock Central High School because of pending construction of another senior high school, Hall High School.

1954: Brown v. Board of Education decision declares "separate but equal" schools unconstitutional; NAACP petitions the Little Rock School Board for immediate integration.

1955: Brown v. Board of Education II requires desegregation with "all deliberate speed"; Rosa Parks arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give seat to white man; Montgomery Bus Boycott begins; Capital Citizens Council formed in Little Rock to promote segregation in schools; Dunbar closes as a high school; Horace Mann High School opens for African-American students; Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation on interstate travel.

1956: Aaron v. Cooper filed by NAACP to secure "prompt and orderly end of segregation in public schools" (dismissed); Tallahasee bus boycott begins and continues until 1958; Southern Manifesto presented by southern legislators to U.S. Congress; Alabama outlaws the NAACP; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s home is bombed in Atlanta.

1957: Nine students enroll at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; Segregation bills passed by the Arkansas State Legislature and signed by Governor Orval Faubus; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., founds the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to promote nonviolent civil rights actions; Mother's League of Central High School forms in Little Rock to combat desegregation; Eisenhower sends federal troops to Little Rock to maintain peace in the midst of the school crisis; First Civil Rights bill since 1875 passed by U.S. Congress.

1958: High school closed in Little Rock by Governor Orval Faubus; Women's Emergency Committee (WEC) to Open Schools established in Little Rock; Ernest Green becomes first African-American to graduate from Little Rock Central High School; Public high schools are closed in Little Rock in what is called the "lost year" (1959-1960 school year); Aaron v. Cooper heard by U.S. Supreme Court; Martin Luther King stabbed in Harlem, New York.

1959: Arkansas Gazette receives Pulitzer Prize awards in journalism for coverage of the crisis; The WEC and local businessmen form a committee called Stop This Outrageous Purge (STOP) to end the firing of teachers and administrators who supported integration.

1960: African-American students have a sit-in at a Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, leading to the city desegregating eating establishments a few months later. In over 100 cities, sit-ins will become common; Little Rock schools reopen without incident with black students attending both Little Rock Central High and Hall High schools; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) founded; Civil Rights Act signed.

1961: Thurgood Marshall appointed to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals by President John F. Kennedy; the biracial Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) sends several busloads of "freedom riders" through the South to test compliance with federal laws integrating bus stations; Albany Movement in Georgia founded and continues until 1962.

1962: First African-American student denied admission to the University of Mississippi. President Kennedy mobilizes Mississippi troops to prevent violence. James Meredith graduates the following year from the school; Los Angeles Riots and Ole Miss riots.

1963: President Kennedy assassinated, Vice President Lyndon Johnson assumes the Presidency; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers "I Have a Dream" speech on steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington; Public outcry against television images from Birmingham, Alabama, where police use dogs and high pressure water hose to break up peaceful demonstrations; Civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, is murdered; WEC disbands in Arkansas; Centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

1964: Civil Rights Act signed by President Johnson that bans discrimination in education, employment, and public accommodation; Freedom Summer to register Mississippi African-Americans to vote; Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr., wins the Nobel Peace Prize; The 24th Amendment abolishing the poll tax is ratified; Little Rock School District adopts "Freedom of Choice" school plan; Race riots in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, and Philadelphia; Civil rights workers, Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney are killed in Mississippi.

1965: Voting Rights Act to register African-Americans to vote in states where voter rights had been denied; Malcolm X, a militant civil rights leader, is assassinated; Voting riots occur in Selma, Alabama; March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; Watts Race Riots in Los Angeles leave 34 dead.

1966: Robert Weaver becomes first African-American cabinet member – heading the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Black Panthers are formed; African-American holiday of Kwanzaa is created; Little Rock School District adopts "Three Year High School Plan" for creating racial balance.

1967: Thurgood Marshall nominated and confirmed by Senate as first African-American Supreme Court Justice; Race riots occur in the summer in more than 100 cities.

1968: Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee at the Lorraine Motel (current site of the National Civil Rights Museum).

1970: Alexander v. Homes County (MS) Board of Education ends "all deliberate speed" timetable for integration in their schools.

1971: Reverend Jesse Jackson establishes the People United to Save Humanity (PUSH); Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (NC) upholds school busing to achieve racial balance.

1972: Congress passes Emergency School Aid Act, a desegregation assistance program.

1973: Keyes v. Denver School District No. 1 orders the city of Denver (the first outside of the South) to integrate and establish busing plan; Little Rock begins busing students to accomplish racial balance in the local schools.

1974: Milliken v. Bradley established that segregated practices in one school district did not warrant relief that included a non-segregating school district - i.e, a suburban area that did not contribute to segregation could not be part of the remedy (busing their students to segregated schools).

1977: Little Rock Central High School commemorates its 50th anniversary with a speech by its first African-American student body president; Over 130 million people watch the television miniseries, *Roots* by Alex Haley, that recounts the African-American experience.

1979: Membership in the Ku Klux Klan is on the largest rise since the 1920s.

1980: President Ronald Reagan and his administration seek to dismantle early desegregation policies in favor of neighborhood schools.

1983: Reverend Jesse Jackson runs unsuccessfully for president (Democrat); Unsuccessful attempts are made to consolidate the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County school districts.

1986: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed as a national holiday in January.

1987: Mae Carol Jennings becomes first African-American female selected to be an astronaut in training.

1989: Douglas Wilder, an African-American, is elected governor of Virginia – the first elected African-American governor since Reconstruction; David Dinkins elected New York City's first African-American mayor.

1991: Race riots occur in Los Angeles, leaving 50 dead and 2,000 injured; Clarence Thomas becomes the second African-American Supreme Court Justice.

1992: William Jefferson Clinton of Arkansas elected president.

1994: Number of African-Americans attending public schools grows by 178%, the number of Hispanics by 14%, and the number of whites falls by 9%.

1995: Denver released from court-ordered busing.

1997: Little Rock School District successfully petitions to be given window of exemption from federal desegregation monitoring; 40th Anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School; President Clinton gives Congressional Medal of Honor to Little Rock Nine.

1998: Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site designated a unit of the National Park Service.

2004: 50th Anniversary of the Brown v Board of Education of Topeka decision.

2007: 50th Anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

Vocabulary

Aaron v. Cooper: 1958 United States Supreme Court decision that instructed the Little Rock School Board to proceed immediately with the Blossom Plan for desegregation.

Arkansas Gazette: Arkansas's oldest newspaper (1819) – now known as the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; Gave coverage to the crisis at Little Rock Central High School in 1957; Received both the Pulitzer Prize and the Freedom Award for unbiased news reporting of events.

Arkansas National Guard: State militia called up by Governor Orval Faubus to keep the nine African-American students from attending Little Rock Central High School in September of 1957; later used to protect the nine students during the 1957-1958 school year, under federal orders.

Arkansas State Legislature: Lawmaking body for the State of Arkansas; Composed of the Senate and House of Representatives; Instrumental in passing segregationist bills during the 1950s that supported Governor Orval Faubus in his quest to keep the Little Rock schools separate.

Arkansas State Press: Weekly newspaper printed for the African-American community by L.C. and Daisy Bates. First appeared on May 9, 1941 and became the largest and most influential black paper in the state. It criticized racism, attacked police brutality, segregation, and the inequities of the criminal justice system. The paper closed in 1959 after the Bates' were involved with the Little Rock Central High crisis. Daisy Bates reopened the newspaper in 1984 and then continued to serve as an advisor after she sold the paper in 1987.

Wiley Austin Branton: (born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 1923 and died in 1999) Prominent attorney, noted civil rights activist, and strong advocate of voting rights for all Americans. As a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Branton spent his time during the postwar period teaching African-Americans how to mark an election ballot. His efforts resulted in his conviction of a misdemeanor for "teaching the mechanics of voting." Branton attended Arkansas A.M. & N. College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) where he received the Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1950. As a law student at the University of Arkansas School of Law at Fayetteville, he received the Doctor of Law degree in 1952, was the fourth African-American student to enroll at the institution, and the third to graduate. Branton achieved national prominence when he served as the chief counsel for the nine African-American students in the 1957 Little Rock desegregation case. However, during his long distinguished legal career, he made significant contributions in the voting rights arena as both a public officer and private citizen. In 1962, Branton became the first Executive Director of the Southern



Regional Council's Voter Education Project based in Atlanta, Georgia. The project was a cooperative effort that successfully registered over 600,000 African-American voters in 11 states and helped to create the momentum for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. During the early 1960s, Branton also

represented "freedom riders" in Mississippi and African-Americans engaged in voter registration drives throughout the South.

Blossom Plan: Little Rock School District plans for desegregation of public schools beginning in 1957; Named for the Little Rock School District superintendent, Virgil Blossom.

Brown v Board of Education of Topeka: Landmark 1954 court case in which the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously declared that it was unconstitutional to create separate schools for children on the basis of race. The Brown ruling ranks as one of the most important Supreme Court decisions of the 20th century. At the time of the decision, 17 southern states and the District of Columbia required that all public schools be racially segregated. A few northern and western states, including Kansas, left the issue of segregation up to individual school districts.

Capital Citizens Council: Group of segregationists that formed to keep the schools of Little Rock separate.

Civil Rights: The rights belonging to an individual by virtue of citizenship, especially the fundamental freedoms and privileges guaranteed by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and by subsequent acts of Congress, including civil liberties, due process, equal protection of the laws, and freedom from discrimination.

Daisy Gatson Bates: (born Huttig, Union County, Arkansas, 1914 and died in 1999; married L. C. Bates (1901-1980) and settled in Little Rock). Member of the NAACP and served as president of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP branches. It was in this capacity that Daisy Bates became the advisor to the Little Rock Nine. In 1960, Bates moved to New York City and spent two years writing her memoirs of the Central High crisis. *The Long Shadow of Little Rock* was published in 1962 with an introduction by Eleanor Roosevelt. After completion of the book, Bates moved to Washington, D. C. where she worked for the Democratic National Committee and for the Johnson administration's antipoverty programs. After suffering a stroke in 1965, she returned to Little Rock. Together, Bates and her husband published the *Arkansas State Press*, a paper for the

African-American community.

Desegregation: To abolish or eliminate segregation in; To open (a school or workplace, for example) to members of all races or ethnic groups, especially by force of law.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: (1929-1968), American clergyman and Nobel Peace Prize winner, one of the principal leaders of the American civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. King's challenges to segregation and racial discrimination in the 1950s and 1960s helped convince many Americans to support the cause of civil rights in the United States. After his assassination in 1968, King became a symbol of protest in the struggle for racial justice.

Fourteenth Amendment: An amendment to the Constitution of the United States adopted in 1868; extends the guarantees of the Bill of Rights to the states as well as to the federal government

Governor Orval Faubus: (born Combs, Arkansas, 1910 and died in 1994), Governor of Arkansas (1955-67) and a schoolteacher, Faubus served in World War II and after the war became Arkansas state highway commissioner. Elected governor, Faubus initially pursued a liberal course in office but to combat his political opponents who were staunch segregationists, he adopted a hard-line civil-rights position. In 1957, Faubus gained national attention when he called out the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, but he was eventually forced to withdraw the Guard. After rioting broke out, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent U.S. troops to Little Rock and put the National Guard under federal command in order to ensure the integration of the school. Faubus's political expediency resulted in his repeated reelection as governor but also prevented him from moving into the national political arena. In 1970, 1974, and 1986 he sought reelection as governor of Arkansas but was unsuccessful in each attempt at a political comeback, the last time losing to Bill Clinton.

Greater Little Rock Improvement League: African-American organization that formed to help integration and end the crisis at Little Rock Central High School without pursuing litigation.

Integration: The act or process of making whole or entire as it relates to education.

Judge Richard Davies: Federal judge who ordered the continued desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in September of 1957.

Little Rock Central High School: High school built in 1927 that served as the scene for the desegregation crisis of 1957. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1982 and a National Historic Site in 1998.

Little Rock Nine: Term given the first nine African-American students who attended Little Rock Central High School during the 1957-1958 school year. The nine students are Melba Pattillo, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray, Carlotta Walls, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown, Thelma Mothershed.

Thurgood Marshall: (1908-1993) American civil rights lawyer, the first black justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. Throughout his long and varied career, Marshall was a tireless advocate for the rights of minorities and the poor.

Mother's League of Central High School: Group of women that opposed desegregation.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Organization founded in 1909 in New York City for the purpose of improving the conditions under which black Americans lived at that time. Although these conditions have improved enormously, many differences still exist in the exercise of rights of U.S. citizens solely because of race or ethnic origin. The NAACP continues to seek a single class of citizenship for every American.

Io1st Airborne Division: Federal troops sent from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to ensure the safety of the nine African-American students at Little Rock Central High School and to keep peace in the city of Little Rock in the event of protest or violence.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower: (born in Pennsylvania in 1890 and died in 1969), American military leader and 34th president of the United States (1953-1961).

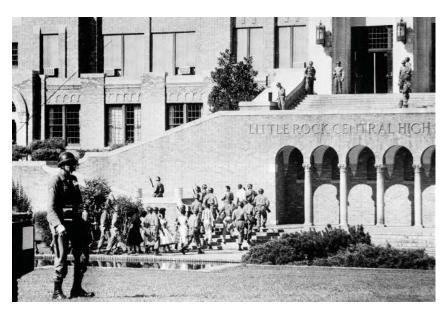
Racism: The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others; discrimination or prejudice based on race.

Segregation: The act of segregating, or the state of being segregated; separation from others; a parting.

State Sovereignty Committee: Committee formed by the Arkansas State Legislature to investigate the forces pushing for integration of Little Rock public schools.

States' Rights: All rights not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution nor denied by it to the states; The political position advocating strict interpretation of the Constitution with regard to the limitation of federal powers and the extension of the autonomy of the individual state to the greatest possible degree.

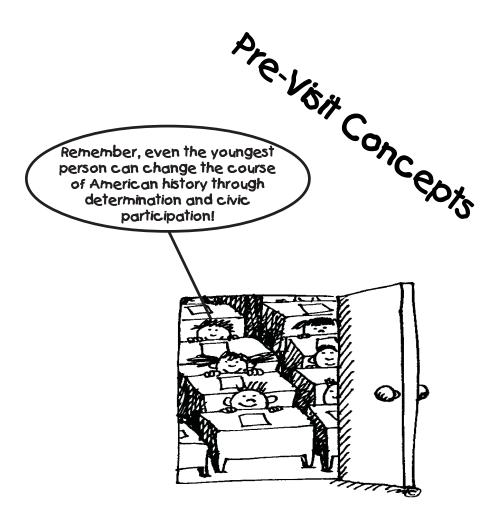
Unconstitutional: not constitutional; not according to, or consistent with, the terms of a constitution of government; contrary to the constitution.



The Little Rock Nine enter the high school, 1957. Photo by Will Counts. Courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission.

KINDERGARTEN - FOURTH GRADE:

- I) Read a story about the civil rights era from the bibliography in this booklet and assist students in developing an awareness of real-life models of integrity, citizenship/civic virtue, courage, determination, and perseverance through the study of famous Civil Rights leaders in our history past and present. Answer the following questions:
 - * Ask the students who the book is about.
 - * Describe the main character.
 - * From this list, is there anything that you would like to know more about (supply some books, pictures, cassettes, and videos readily available to help the students answer the questions).
 - * List some of the questions that you would like to ask that person about his/her life and actions.
 - * Why was this person important and what did he/she do during the Civil Rights Movement?
 - * Using the text, understand the meaning of integrity, citizenship/civic virtue, courage, and perseverance by giving examples of perseverance and other character traits evident in the lives of Civil Rights leaders and participants in the Civil Rights Movement.
 - * Lead a student discussion of famous Civil Rights leaders and what lessons may be learned from their examples of character trait(s).
 - * What character trait(s) do you feel ___(leader/person)___ displayed? Give specific details and references to support your opinion.
 - * Apply the concepts of integrity, citizenship/civic virtue, courage, and determination, and perseverance to one's own life and give one example from personal experience.
 - * Write about a personal experience where you were successful in practicing a character trait(s) of integrity, citizenship/civic virtue, courage, determination, and perseverance (compositions may be used in school display later).
 - * Use art, English language, dance, and music to interpret what students learned about the meaning of integrity, citizenship/civic virtue, courage, and perseverance



2) Using a map of Arkansas, identify and color code the six geographic regions of Arkansas (Delta, Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas River Valley, Ozark Mountains, Ouachita Mountains, and the Gulf Coastal Plain). Label and color code the major cities of Arkansas (including Jonesboro, Hot Springs, West Memphis, Helena, Camden, Hope, Little Rock, Conway, Batesville, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Arkadelphia, and El Dorado). Highlight where Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is located (extra points: highlight where other National Park sites are located: Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas Post National Memorial, Hot Springs National Park, Fort Smith National Historic Site, and the Buffalo National River).

FIFTH - TWELFTH GRADE:

- 1) Have students/group of students read a story about the civil rights era according to age group (see bibliography) OR chose from the following topics and illustrate a knowledge about life in the 1950s (include political, societal/popular culture, economic, and racial issues):
 - * Life in 1950s Arkansas.
 - * The Civil Rights Movement in the United States (emphasize diverse groups, e.g., African-American, Mexican-American, women's groups, etc.).
 - * The United States Constitution and our basic rights.
 - * Civil rights leaders (include those from Arkansas).
 - * The world in the 1950s (life outside of the United States pick a continent).



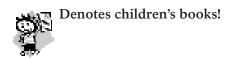
"Courage" the Tiger, mascot for the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. The tiger has been the mascot for the high school since the early 1900s!

- * Civil rights sites in the United States.
- * The job of the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches of Government.

After reading or researching, students should be able to:

- * Analyze information on civil rights, government, and history of the United States and Arkansas in the 1950s.
- * Translate their knowledge into a present-day discussion on civil rights in America.
- * Describe the various forms of freedoms, both individual and those preserving constitutional democracy.
- * Describe what equal protection of the law means, and how it has been used to eliminate legalized discrimination against various minorities.
- 2) Identify or illustrate the meaning of vocabulary words in this booklet you will hear them again!

Civil Rights Bibliography and Resources



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———. A Picture Book of Rosa Parks (School and Library Binding).
———. A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman (School and Library Binding).
———. A Picture Book of Thurgood Marshall (School and Library Binding).
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$Counts, Will.\ A \textit{Life is More Than a Moment: The Desegregation of Little Rock's Central High} \ (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1999).$
Daniel, Pete. Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1997).
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_____. The Walking City: The Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955-1956 (New York: Carlson Publishing, 1986).

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Woodward, C. Vann. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*, 3rd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974).



Videos:

The Ernest Green Story by Buena Vista Home Video (1992, 101 minutes, grades 3-12)

Crisis at Central High by HBO Home Video (ca. 1970s, 120 minutes, grades 5-12)

Women's Emergency Committee by Sandra Hubbard (Winner of Gracie Vision Award, 40 minutes)

Arkansas Educational Telecommunications Network: Learning Services Division Education@aetn.org I-800-662-2386

- Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement
- The Bill of Rights
- The American Civil War
- Justice and the Citizen: A Celebration of MLK
- As We See It
- Central High 40 Years Later
- Teaching with Television
- We the People: The President
- United States Constitution
- United States History, 1760-1993
- America Past
- Hope High School
- Little Rock Central High School

AETN videos for download on your personal computer:

Daisy Bates Memorial Commemoration

The **Public Broadcasting System (PBS)** has many videos related to civil rights throughout history, including *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*, episodes of *The American Experience*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Online NewsHour*, and *Freedom: A History of US*. Please check website for particular topic at **www.pbs.org**.

Did You Remember?

- *Call the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and make a reservation?
- *Reserve your school bus/transportation and chaperones?
- * Verify your dates and times with school personnel/faculty?
- * Check a map for destination and prepare to navigate the driver.
- *Distribute and collect permission slips?
- *Pack your camera to document your visit?
- *Plans for lunch or snacks?
- *Place visit in context of your classroom (i.e., expected behaviors, what they will see, etc.)?
- * Engage in pre-visit activities?
- *Complete post-visit assessment and return to Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site?

FINALLY...

- * Did you publish an article in your local newspaper about your visit (using your own pictures!), create a school bulletin board, trip-related project for display, trip presentation for a parents night...?
- * Write the rangers about your visit? Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site LOVES to hear from you about your visit!

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Internet:

Arkansas Democrat Gazette www.arkdemgaz.com/prev/central

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, AL www.bcri.bham.al.us

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Topeka, KS www.nps.gov/brvb www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html www.civnet.org/resources/teach/basic/part6/36.htm www.nara.gov/education/cc/brown.html www.pbs.org/jefferson/enlight/brown.htm

Center for Civic Education www.civiced.org/index.php

Center for Constitutional Rights www.cccr-ny.org/v2/home.asp

Center for Individual Freedom www.cfif.org/htdocs/flash_2.htm

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Little Rock, AR www.nps.gov/chsc

CongressLink www.congresslink.org

Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights

Library of Congress www.loc.gov

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site ww.nps.gov/malu

National Archives and Records Administration www.nara.gov

National Voting and Civil Rights Institute, Selma, AL www.voterights.org

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN www.civilrightsmuseum.org

Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 (1896) at Bowdoin College: www.bowdoin.edu/~sbodurt2/court/cases/plessy.html www.civnet.org/resources/teach/basic/part6/33.htm

Timeline of the American Civil Rights Movement www.wmich.ed/politics/mlk

Voices of the Civil Rights Era www.webcorp.com/civilrights/index.htm Yale/New Haven Teachers Institute

From Plessy v. Ferguson to Brown v. Board of Education: The Supreme Court Rules on School Desegregation: www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/1982/3/82.03.06.x.html

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Bookstore:

Many of the recommended reading resources are found at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site bookstore. They can be obtained by contacting the following:

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site 2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 501 -374-1957 (phone) 501 -376 -4728 (fax)

CHSC_visitor_center@nps.gov www.nps.gov/chsc

For more information on scheduling a tour, please contact:

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site 2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

> 501 -374- 1957 (phone) 501 -376 -4728 (fax)

CHSC_Visitor_Center@nps.gov www.nps.gov/chsc

To receive education curriculum, please contact:

Education Specialist
Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site
700 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 3527
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

501 -324- 5682 (phone) 501 -324- 5630 (fax)

Lea_Baker@nps.gov www.nps.gov/chsc

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