

Dear Mr. Dred Scott,

Hello, my name is Teresa Thevary and I was told that you played a part in American history. I never understood exactly why you were important, so I decided to do some research. I had no idea you had a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court stated that you had no rights since you were an African American, which meant you could not sue in a Federal Court. You had to remain a slave and they considered you as "property." However, this decision did not only affect you. According to the Constitution, people of the African race were not considered to be citizens. The Supreme Court also ruled that Congress could not stop slavery in the new territories and declared that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional. This provided even more controversy between the North and the South. The North believed the South wanted to extend slavery into new territories which would lead to the South controlling Congress. The South agreed with the Dred Scott decision because they believed Congress did not have a right to say that slavery was prohibited in the new territories. The decision made for you in the Supreme Court was leading the country closer to the Civil War. However, history later overturned the decision when the 13th and Fourteenth Amendments were added to the Constitution. The Thirteenth amendment abolished slavery and the Fourteenth made all people born in this country a citizen of the United States with certain rights. Even though the decision the Supreme Court made against you was immoral, justice won out in the end. The Court's wrong was made right which helped all of America realize that human beings are not property just because of the color of their skin. People realized that when a person was born in America, it made them United States citizens. I, as well as many other Americans, owe you a big thank you. Many people did

By Teresa Thevary