



# Civil Rights Viewing Guide



**CIVIL RIGHTS** are positive acts governments take to protect groups against discriminatory treatment based on categories such as race, sex, age, national origin, or other characteristics.

CIVIL RIGHTS attempt to ensure that all Americans have an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of national life.

HISTORY OF SLAVERY	
1619	First slaves brought to America
1800s	Slavery a divisive issue between industrial North and agricultural South
1857	<b>Dred Scott decision. Supreme Court rules that slaves were property, not citizens</b>
1861	Civil War erupts over slavery, federal vs. state issues
1863	Emancipation Proclamation

CIVIL WAR AMENDMENTS	
13th Amendment (1865):	banned slavery and involuntary servitude
<b>14th Amendment (1868):</b>	<b>guaranteed due process and equal protection to all US citizens.</b> guaranteed all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude

Blacks' Struggle for Civil Rights	Women's Struggle for Civil Rights
<p><b>Black Codes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restricted black voting, black access, black employment</li> </ul> <p><b>Civil Rights Act of 1866</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>blacks are full United States citizens</li> <li>federal government has power to intervene when states infringe on citizens' rights</li> </ul> <p><b>Civil Rights Act of 1875</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>granted equal access to public places for blacks and whites</li> </ul> <p><b>Supreme Court (1883)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ruled Congress can prohibit GOVERNMENT discrimination</li> <li>PRIVATE discrimination still allowed</li> </ul> <p><b>Plessy v. Ferguson (1895)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a black man entered a whites-only train to test Supreme Court ruling</b></li> <li><b>Supreme Court ruled "separate but equal" was constitutional</b></li> <li><b>legal basis for SEGREGATION, as long as local government provided equal facilities</b></li> <li><b>in practice, blacks did not receive equal facilities</b></li> <li>Jim Crow Laws enforced segregation and "separate but equal" facilities for all aspects of society</li> </ul> <p><b>Brown v. Board of Education (1954)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Supreme Court ruled segregation was unconstitutional</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Civil Rights Act of 1954</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>outlawed segregation in public facilities</b></li> <li><b>outlawed racial discrimination in employment, education, and voting</b></li> <li>created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission</li> </ul>	<p><b>Early 1800s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>women could not vote</li> </ul> <p><b>1840 Anti-Slavery Society meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott resolved to work for women's civil rights</li> <li>helped found the women's movement</li> </ul> <p><b>Seneca Falls Convention (1848)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organized by Stanton and Mott</li> <li>first women's rights convention</li> <li>public exposure, but no real effect</li> </ul> <p><b>14th and 15th Amendments (1868, 1870)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>made no mention of women's rights</li> </ul> <p><b>19th Amendment (1920)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>women finally gained the right to vote</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>guarantees to people with disabilities equal access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>employment</li> <li>government services</li> <li>public transportation</li> <li>public accommodations</li> </ul> </li> <li>ensures "reasonable access" to people with disabilities as long as it doesn't place an "undue hardship" on employers and establishments</li> </ul>

## VIEWING QUESTIONS

1. What does the Bill of Rights guarantee?
2. During the early 1800s women were considered what?
3. What does the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission do?