

Virginia Studies VS.11

Civil Rights Movement (new 2023 standards)

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VS.11A – STRUGGLES FOR EQUALITY: DISENFRANCHISEMENT, DESEGREGATION & RESISTANCE

11a) Explain the social and political events connected to **disenfranchisement** of African American voters in Virginia in the early 20th century, **desegregation**, court decisions, and **Massive Resistance**, with emphasis on the role of Virginians in the Supreme Court cases including, but not limited to **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**.

Disenfranchisement of African Americans

- After Reconstruction, many rights promised to African Americans were **taken away**, especially the **right to vote**.
- **Poll taxes, literacy tests**, and unfair laws were used to keep Black citizens from voting.
- These actions were part of a larger system of **racial segregation** known as **Jim Crow laws**.

Desegregation and Court Decisions



Brown v. Board of Education ruling bans "separate but equal" schools

- The **Civil Rights Movement** aimed to **end segregation** and win back rights.

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- The **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)** decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declared that **"separate but equal"** schools were **unconstitutional**.
- This case was especially important to Virginia because it included the **Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County** case, which started in Virginia after a student protest.

Massive Resistance in Virginia



- In response to desegregation, some Virginia leaders created a policy called **Massive Resistance** to **block Black students** from attending white schools.
- Some schools were even **shut down** rather than **allow integration**.
- Over time, these policies were **challenged in court and ended**, as they were found to be **illegal**.

VS.11B – VIRGINIANS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Standard 11b: Investigate the political, social, and economic effects of choices made during the Civil Rights Era by Virginians including, but not limited to Maggie Walker, Robert Russa Moton, Barbara Johns, Samuel Wilbert Tucker, Oliver W. Hill, Sr., Irene Morgan, Arthur R. Ashe, A. Linwood Holton, Jr., and L. Douglas Wilder.

Main goals of the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia

African Americans demanded **equal treatment** and the recognition of their **rights** as American citizens, rights which had been taken away after Reconstruction, including:

- **Economic opportunities**
- **Voting rights**
- **Desegregation**

Contributions to civil rights occurred all over Virginia.

As a result of the **Civil Rights Movement**, laws were passed that made **racial discrimination illegal**. This progress was achieved through **voting choices, organizing** and **protests**.

Some **Virginians** who have had a **political, social, and/or economic impact** on life in Virginia during the twentieth century:

Young Activists

Irene Morgan –

- Refused to give up her bus seat in 1944, a decade before Rosa Parks.
- Her case helped **end segregation on interstate buses**.

Barbara Johns – Student leader

- A **Student** who in 1951 led a **student strike against segregation** and protest **poor conditions** at her all-Black high school in Prince Edward County.
- The case, **Davis v. Prince Edward County**, became one of the cases reviewed by

the U.S. Supreme Court when it declared **segregation unconstitutional** in **Brown v. Board of Education**



Irene Morgan refused to give up her seat on a bus a decade before Rosa Parks



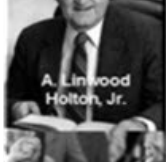
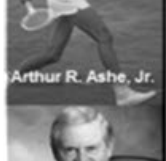
Barbara Johns led her classmates on a student strike against segregation in 1951



Police end "sit-in" at segregated library organized by Samuel Tucker

Samuel Wilbert Tucker –

- Organized a **"sit-in"** at a **segregated** library and fought unfair laws in court



Educator & Lawyer

- **Robert Russa Moten** – Educator who worked to **improve Black schools** and served as the second principal of Tuskegee Institute.
- **Oliver W. Hill, Sr.** – **Civil rights lawyer** who helped argue *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, which became part of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Advocate of Black economic opportunity

- **Maggie Walker**, a businesswoman and civil rights leader in Richmond, was the first African American woman to found and **lead a bank** in the U.S.
- She worked to support **Black economic empowerment** and civil rights.

Sports & Symbolism

- **Arthur R. Ashe, Jr.** – Famous **tennis player** from Richmond, the first Black man to win major tennis championships, and a strong **advocate for civil rights**.

White Allies & Political Change

- **A. Linwood Holton, Jr.** – Virginia **governor** who supported **integration** and was one of the first Southern governors to send his own children to integrated schools.

Breaking Barriers

- **L. Douglas Wilder** became the **first elected African American governor** in U.S. history when he was elected Governor of Virginia in 1989.