

Ruby Bridges: A Simple Act of Courage

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Carousel

Term	Definition
NAACP	The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. An organization that works to obtain equal rights for all Americans.
Unconstitutional	Against the rules and values of the legal foundation of a nation, such as the United States Constitution.
Segregation	The practice of separating people into different areas, usually because of their race, class, or ethnic group.
Desegregation	The process of ending the separation of two groups of people, often involving a change in laws.
Separate but equal	A legal term that allowed segregation, as long as both white and African American areas and services were equal.
Brown v. Board of Education	A court case in 1954 that ended segregation in schools. The Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal schools for African American and white children were unconstitutional.
Marshals	Law enforcement officers who ensure that federal laws and court decisions are being carried out. In 1960, U.S. marshals escorted Ruby Bridges to and from school each day.
Bigot	A person who refuses to accept a certain group or groups of people based on prejudice and may express intolerance, hate, fear, and/or anger as a result.

Term	Definition
Civil rights movement	A national effort made by many Americans to obtain equal rights for African Americans in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s.
14th Amendment	An 1868 addition to the Constitution of the United States that gave equal rights to all Americans, and notably African Americans. One of the clauses, the Equal Protection Clause, requires states to provide equal protection to all citizens.
Integration	The process of bringing together people, usually of different races or religions, and providing them with equality in society or an organization.
Jim Crow Laws	Any of the laws in the southern United States that treated African Americans as second-class citizens, such as requiring difficult literacy tests to prevent people of color from voting, demanding railroad and bus companies to provide separate accommodations for different races, and legally separating white and colored students into different schools. These laws supported segregation by enforcing the separation of African Americans and whites.
Racism	The belief that certain races, or skin colors, are inherently superior to other races; any actions that are based on this belief.
Federal	Part of or related to a central government. In the United States, “federal” specifically means part of or related to the government of the United States as a whole, rather than the government of any particular state.
Discrimination	Treating one person or one group differently from others based on something other than merit.



Term	Definition
Disenfranchisement	The act of denying a person or group of people privileges, immunities, or legal rights, especially the right to vote.
Civil disobedience	The act of refusing to obey laws in order to direct the government's attention to an issue and influence social change. During the civil rights movement, many activist organizations used forms of civil disobedience such as sit-ins as nonviolent protests.
Barricade	A physical barrier or obstruction used to control individuals or masses.

