

UNIT FIVE

GLOSSARY

Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement

founded in 2013 in response to Trayvon Martin's murder, this organization works to end white supremacy and build local power to reduce anti-Black violence

Black Panther Party for Self Defense

founded in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, this organization was part of the Black Power movement and promoted Black independence and armed self-defense against police brutality

Black Power movement

refers to a time of change in the 1960s and 1970s, during which Black Americans emphasized pride in their heritage, economic independence and the development of Black political and cultural groups

boycott

a type of protest in which people stop buying the products or services of a company

Browder v. Gayle

a 1956 court case that found segregation on Alabama buses to be unconstitutional (against the law)

Brown v. Board of Education

a court case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled (May 17, 1954) that school segregation and the doctrine of "separate but equal" was unconstitutional

civil rights

the freedoms guaranteed to citizens that protect them from discrimination and ensure equality for all people

Civil Rights Act of 1964

an important civil rights law that banned discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin, and outlawed segregation in public places

civil rights movement

the struggle to eliminate discrimination and secure equal rights for Black Americans that took place mainly in the 1950s and 1960s

desegregate

to end a policy of racial segregation or separation

direct action

organized acts to achieve a goal or result, such as strikes, boycotts and other forms of protest

discrimination

unfair treatment of a person or group based on prejudice

freedom riders

activists who rode buses through Southern states in 1961 to protest segregation on public buses and in bus stations

Freedom Summer

the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project aimed to register Black voters in Mississippi, educate community members through Freedom Schools and increase Black political representation

integrate/integration

make parts of something into a whole unit/bringing together diverse individuals or groups as equals in a society or organization

intersectionality

refers to the ways in which a person's various identities (such as race, class and gender) can combine to create different types of discrimination and privilege

Jim Crow

a fictional minstrel character created in the 1830s, depicting a clumsy and dim-witted enslaved man; "Jim Crow" was a common insult for Black people

Jim Crow laws

laws in place from 1876–1965 that segregated (separated) Black people from white people and limited their opportunity to vote, hold jobs, get an education and enjoy other freedoms

literacy test

from the late 1800s through the 1960s, these tests were used (mostly in the South) to make it difficult for Black people to register to vote

lynching

an unlawful public murder, often by hanging, carried out by an angry mob; white people used lynchings to control and terrorize Black people during the 1800s and 1900s, mostly in the South

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

a protest held in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, and attended by more than 250,000 people, which called for civil rights for Black Americans

marginalized

pushed to the sidelines of society; treated as unimportant, powerless, dangerous or not normal

Montgomery bus boycott

a protest in Montgomery, Alabama, against segregation on public buses, lasting from December 5, 1955 to December 20, 1956

movement

an organized effort to achieve a goal or set of goals; a group of people with a shared purpose who create change together

NAACP

the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; a civil rights group in the U.S. that began in 1909 to work for equality for Black Americans

Nation of Islam

a religious and political organization founded by Wallace Fard Muhammad in 1930 that focuses on Black nationalism

nonviolence

a set of values that rejects violence and encourages change through peaceful actions

police brutality

extreme, unjust or illegal use of force by the police against ordinary people, including verbal abuse, intimidation, beatings, murder and other forms of mistreatment

poll tax

a fee charged to all voters that was often used during the late 1800s through the 1960s to keep poor people and people of color from voting

segregate/segregation

separate/the act of keeping different racial groups separate from each other

sit-in

a type of protest in which people gather in a place and refuse to leave; during the 1950s and 1960s, sit-ins at lunch counters were held to protest segregation in restaurants and other spaces

SNCC

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, formed in 1960; a group of youth leaders who took direct action to challenge segregation and fight for civil rights for Black Americans

tokenism

doing something to make it look like people are being treated fairly and to avoid criticism, such as a company hiring a person of color so that they do not appear racist

unconstitutional

going against the Constitution or laws of a country

voter suppression

methods used to control the results of an election by keeping certain groups of people from voting, such as literacy tests and poll taxes

Voting Rights Act of 1965

a law signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965, to protect the voting rights of African Americans

white supremacy

racist belief systems built around the ideas that white people/culture are superior, white people should be dominant over other people and white people should live separately in a whites-only society