Civil Rights Vocabulary (model definitions)

Segregation – separation of people on the basis of race

Integration – to open without restriction to people of all races or ethnic groups, to desegregate

Separate but equal – separation of races in public accommodations...was legal from Plessy v Ferguson

De jure segregation – racial separation established by law

De facto segregation – racial separation established by practice or custom not by law

Boycott – means of protest based on refusing to purchase products or services

Civil disobedience – refusal to obey laws which are seen as unjust in an effort to bring about a change in government policy

Rosa Parks – African/American seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white person...sparked the Civil Rights movement

Martin Luther King, Jr. – African American preacher and Civil Rights leader who believed in nonviolence to bring about change

Governor Orval Faubus – Arkansas governor who ordered the National Guard to prevent African American students from entering Little Rock’s Central High School

Governor George Wallace – Alabama governor who advocated “segregation forever”

Sit-in – form of demonstration used by African Americans to protest discrimination: protestors sit down in a segregated business

Non violent direction action – protestors commit an act in a nonviolent way (sit in, boycott)

Creative tension – production controlled hostility between groups of people

Thurgood Marshall – presented legal argument of Linda Brown before the United States Supreme Court...later became the first African American associate justice on the Supreme Court

W.E.B. DuBois – African American founder of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
NAACP – National Association for Advancement of Colored People founded in 1909 to promote full racial equality

Massive resistance – a series of laws enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in opposition to the Supreme Court decision to integrate public schools (coined by U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd)

Brown v Board of Education – 1954 – Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional

Civil Rights Act of 1964 – law that banned discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin or religion in public places

Voting Rights Act of 1965 – law that made it easier for African Americans to register to vote by eliminating discriminatory literacy tests

Martial law – temporary military rule