Protesting During the Civil Rights Movement

After the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, people were ready to keep protesting peacefully. They began to protest discrimination in stores, restaurants, and other public facilities. In the 1960s, it was common to hold a **sit-in**, where black students would sit down at a whites-only lunch counter. The protesters were non-violent, although many times they had things thrown at them, people said horrible things to them, or they were arrested. **Sit-ins** were effective because the business owners lost money without customers, and this often made the business owners change their mind about serving blacks.

Marching was another way that people protested during the Civil Rights Movement. People marched to support the **integration** of schools. Sometimes children even marched! Some famous marches were the Birmingham, Alabama marches and the March on Washington, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963.

Another way people protested during the Civil Rights Movement was with **Freedom Rides**. Some buses were still not **desegregated**, so black people decided to take a bus ride throughout the South as a protest against segregated buses. Freedom Riders were enthusiastic even though they were arrested and their buses were lit on fire. They continued to hold Freedom Rides into the early 1960s.

Adapted from *History Alive! The United States*