

Brown v. Board of Education; The First Court Case
to Strike Down Segregation in Public Schools as
Unconstitutional

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How did we choose our topic?

During September 1950 in Topeka, Kansas, Oliver Brown walked his daughter, Linda, into an all-white school, hoping to enroll her. Solely based on the color of her skin, Linda was denied the opportunity prompting the NAACP and the Brown family to file a court case communicating school segregation was unconstitutional and violated the 14th amendment. This case established the old doctrine “separate but equal” was not equal at all. Four years later the court ruled in Linda’s favor after a relentless battle that opened the doors for future court cases to end segregation in public schools. We picked Brown v. Board of Education as our History Day topic because we do not have much diversity in our school/town, yet 30 miles away we heard about horrible things unfolding this summer. Which is why we want to bring attention to this subject, so racism can be put to an end. This groundbreaking event helped change the lives of many Americans, although this event started the change of integrating public schools, there are still a lot of inequalities for black people today.

How did we conduct our research?

Our original plan was to go to the Minneapolis library, but due to covid we had a few setbacks regarding our overall project. Our main challenge was that it was hard to collaborate with our teammates and teachers through a screen. But we did not let our challenges hold back our project. We ended up going to our local library. Librarians helped us navigate valuable websites. We also got an interview with Dexter Armstrong who taught us about all the inequalities of black people to help us better understand how to communicate our topic. At first we knew very little about our topic, but as we explored our topic more and more we started to learn a lot.

How did we create our topic?

We choose our topic truly because of pure interest. Our presentation category is a website, we

originally planned to do a documentary but plans changed and we are now doing a website. We had to create a whole website platform. We watched a video and got to work. There was a lot of choosing colors, pulling pictures, deciding what we wanted to communicate, and figuring out how we wanted to display the information. We learned a lot about teamwork, and trying until we could find the perfect solution.

How does our topic relate to the theme?

This year's theme is Communication in History. We believe our topic is all about communicating what you believe in. Linda Brown, Ruby Bridges, and many other black children were treated unfairly. They didn't just sit around and hope it would go away, they communicated that segregation was wrong and needed to be put to end. When they communicated what they believed in, things changed! Our topic is essential to history because if Brown v. Board of Education never happened segregation in schools could possibly still be legal.