

Who's who in Civil Rights?

1. Martin Luther King

- assassinated in 1968
- involved in Sit-ins, March on Washington and Montgomery Bus Boycott
- launched Poor People's Campaign in 1968
- Wrote the 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'

2. Stokeley Carmichael

- became leader of the SNCC in 1964
- coined the phrase 'Black Power' in chants on 1966 Meredith March
- later left the SNCC to become Shadow Prime Minister for the Black Panther Party
- renamed SNCC as Student National Co-ordinating Committee

3. Strom Thurmond

- filibustered for 24 hours to oppose 1957 Civil Rights Act
- co-authored Southern Manifesto
- Senator for South Carolina
- switched sides from Democrat to Republican in 1964

4. James Eastland

- Senator for Mississippi
- signatory of Southern Manifesto
- Johnson said of him "he could be standing right in the middle of the worst Mississippi flood ever known, and he'd say the niggers caused it, helped out by the communists."
- part of filibuster over 1964 Civil Rights Act
- used his position as head of a Congressional Committee to water down the 1957 Civil Rights Act

6. Malcolm X

- described the assassination of Kennedy as 'chickens coming home to roost'
- described the March on Washington as the 'Farce on Washington'
- member of the Nation of Islam until 1964
- titled one speech 'the ballot or the bullet' but never actively encouraged violence

7. Rosa Parks

- member of the NAACP
- middle-aged, middle class seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama
- refused to move seats on a bus in 1954
- was second choice for her role behind 16 year old Claudette Colvin

8. Bull Connor

- described by JFK as 'the true hero of the civil rights movement'
- Commissioner of Public Safety in Birmingham, Alabama
- allowed mob 15 minutes before sending police to intervene when Freedom Rides reached Birmingham in 1961 claiming Police had 'been with their mothers (it was Mother's Day)
- used firehoses and dogs against protesters during the Birmingham Campaign

9. Laurie Pritchett

- Police Chief in Albany in 1961

- arranged for King's bail to be paid in secret
- studied tactics of SCLC and SNCC and counter-acted them by policing non-violently available to prevent incarcerated blacks becoming a cause celebre
- ensured sufficient jail space was av

10. JFK

- set up the EEOC
- Democratic President
- Drew up the Civil Rights Bill

11. Bobby Kennedy

- sent John Seigenthaler, his administrative assistant, to Alabama to attempt to secure the Freedom Riders' safety
- sent US Marshals to enforce the admittance of James Meredith to the University of Mississippin in 1962
- assassinated in New York in June 1968 by Sirhan Sirhan

12. Emmett Till

- born in Chicago
- died in Mississippi in 1955
- his death attracted widespread media interest and led to a song by Bob Dylan

13. James Meredith

- became the first black man admitted to the University of Mississippi in 1962
- organised and led the March Against Fear between Tennessee and Mississippi in 1966
- was shot in 1966 but not killed
- ran as a Republican in several attempts on seats in Congress

14. Autherine Lucy

- the first black student to attend the University of Alabama
- Won a case to attend the university at the Supreme Court, Lucy v Adams 1955
- was later expelled for bringing a further case against the university over her safety

15. James Farmer

- Founded Core in 1942
- initiated the Freedom Rides in 1961
- wrote a speech delivered by Floyd McKissick at the March on Washington as he was in jail in Louisiana

16. Huey Newton

- founder of the Black Panthers
- supported himself through college by burgling homes in Oakland
- was the Minister for Defence in the Panthers
- died in jail

17. Bobby Seale

- co-founder of the Black Panthers
- spied on by COINTELPRO
- served as Chairman of the Panthers
- went on to write a cookbook

18. Eldridge Cleaver

- member of the Black Panthers
- took on the role as 'Minister of Information' for the Black Panther party
- a convicted rapist he referred to his rapes of white women as 'insurrectionary acts'
- Published the acclaimed book 'Soul on Ice'

19. H Rap Brown

- chairman of the SNCC after Carmichael
- famously said "violence is as American as cherry pie"
- also stated "If America don't come around, we're gonna burn it down"
- currently serving a life sentence for murder

20. Orval Faubus

- Governor of Arkansas 1955-67
- Member of Democrat party
- he was re-elected four times after his stance over Little Rock

21. George Wallace

- Governor of Alabama 1963-67
- ran as an independent candidate in the Presidential election of 1968 gaining 10 million votes
- said at his inauguration "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever"
- responsible for 'the stand in the schoolhouse door' in 1963, preventing black students registering for the University of Alabama

22. Lyndon Johnson

- commissioned the Kerner Report
- Announced and implemented the 'Great Society' Programme
- Failed to sign the Southern Manifesto
- Passed the Voting Rights Act 1965
- Escalated the scale and cost of the Vietnam War

23. Harry S Truman

- led the US during the Korean War 1950-53
- commissioned 'To Secure These Rights' report in 1947
- supported the NAACP in Shelley v Kraemer 1948
- established the Committee on Government Contract Compliance (CGCC) in 1951
- forced desegregation of the army (possibly to help recruitment for Korean War)

24. Dwight Eisenhower

- appointed Earl Warren as Chief Justice
- intervened at Little Rock in 1957
- Passed Civil Rights Acts in 1957 and 1960
- quoted as saying of southern whites "All they are concerned about is to see that their sweet little girls are not required to sit in school alongside some big overgrown negroes."

25. Eldon Edwards

- automobile paint sprayer from Georgia
- founded U.S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
- appeared on Mike Wallace show as 'Grand Wizard of the KKK' in 1957
- died in 1960

26. Elizabeth Eckford

- one of the Little Rock Nine
- attempted to enter Central High alone on first day of crisis
- was reassured about attendance at Little Rock High by NAACP leaders and Thurgood Marshall
- failed to graduate from Central High but later earned a degree in History

27. Fannie Lou Hamer

- sterilised without her consent as part of a Mississippi plan to decrease the poor black population
- one of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party candidates at the Democratic National Convention in 1964
- member of the SNCC
- worked for black voter registration in Mississippi including taking several cases to court

28. Melba Patillo

- one of the Little Rock Nine
- suffered acid and knife attacks in first year of school
- was reassured about attendance at Little Rock High by NAACP leaders and Thurgood Marshall
- volunteered to attend Little Rock High but later regretted the decision

29. Richard Daley

- democrat politician
- Mayor of Chicago 1955-76
- signed a deal with King in 1966 promising improvements in housing but never honored it
- harsh attitude prevented serious rioting after King's death in 1968

30. Elijah Mohammed - 30

- leader of the Nation of Islam from 1934-75
- accused of rampant materialism and hypocrisy in relationships with women by his two sons
- suspended Malcolm X from the Nation after comments on Kennedy's death
- favoured separatism, cultural revival and self-help for blacks but hated 'jungle styles' like the Afro

31. James Earl Ray

- assassinated Martin Luther King in 1968
- volunteered to help the 1967-68 George Wallace Presidential campaign
- petty criminal and northern racist

32. Earl Warren

- his appointment was described by Eisenhower as 'the biggest damned mistake I ever made'
- he insisted that the verdict in the Brown case be unanimous
- he was a former Governor of California
- Presided over *Browder v Gayle* and *Cooper v Aaron*

33. Thurmond Marshall

- nominated to the Supreme Court by LBJ in 1967
- became Chief Counsel to the NAACP in 1940
- won *Shelley v. Kraemer* 1948, *Sweatt v. Painter*, 1950, *McLaurin v. Oklahoma* 1950
- won *Brown v Board of Education* in 1954

- asked of Malcolm X 'What did he actually achieve?'

34. Viola Liuzzo

- white liberal woman from Michigan (Northern state)
- took part in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march
- assassinated by the Klan when driving marchers home
- her murder played a key role in passing the Voting Rights Act 1965

35. Medger Evers

- murdered by the Klan in 1963
- member of the NAACP
- subject of the Bob Dylan song 'Only a pawn in their game'
- house was bombed by the Klan in May 1963

36. Michael Schwerner, James Cheney, Andrew Goodman

- student members of CORE
- took part in the Mississippi Freedom Summer
- Murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi by members of the KKK
- experience is the basis of the film Mississippi Burning

37. Ralph Abernathy

- replaced King as head of SCLC after the latter was assassinated
- member of the SCLC
- pastor of the largest church in Montgomery, Alabama
- his house was bombed in January 1957 at the end of the Bus Boycott
- King's closest friend

38. Jesse Jackson

- a member of the SCLC
- took part in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965
- selected by King to head up Operation Breadbasket in Chicago in 1966
- clashed with Abernathy after King's death

39. Tommie Smith & John Carlos

- Gave the Black Power salute after medalling at the 1968 Mexico Olympics

40. Otto Kerner

- Chair of the Kerner Commission which investigated the causes of the 1967 race riots
- concluded "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."
- called for the creation of jobs, housing and an end to de facto segregation as a way of addressing the race problem in America

41. Carl Stokes

- a democrat politician
- elected as Mayor of Cleveland Ohio in 1968
- requested that King stay away from Cleveland during the election campaign
- First black Mayor of a top ten population US city

42. Shirley Chisholm

- became the first black woman elected to Congress in 1968
- a democrat politician

- later involved in the women's right's movement
- claimed she face more discrimination in Congress because she was a woman than because she was black

43. Adam Clayton Powell

- represented Harlem in Congress (House of Representatives)
- first black man elected in New York
- repeatedly introduced the 'Powell Amendment' to bills in Congress demanding withdrawal of federal funds to any jurisdiction that maintained segregation
- supported Eisenhower for re-election because the Democrat Party's manifesto promises on Civil Rights were too weak
- referred to King after 1966 as 'Martin Loser King'

44. H Rap Brown

- became leader of the SNCC in 1967
- leader of the SNCC at the time of its collapse
- served as Minister of Justice in the Black Panther Party
- declared "If America don't come around, we're gonna burn it down"

45. Mohammed Ali

- joined the Nation of Islam in 1964
- initially took the name Cassius X
- refused to fight in Vietnam on religious grounds after being drafted
- close friends with Malcolm X

46. Bayard Rustin

- chief organiser of the March on Washington
- early member of the SCLC
- involved in the formation of CORE in 1942 as 'an uncle of CORE'
- a practicing homosexual, accused by Adam Clayton Powell and Strom Thurmond of being in a sexual relationship with King

47. A Rioter

48. Roy Wilkins

- NAACP leader from 1955-77
- helped to organise the 1963 March on Washington
- was an outspoken opponent of Black Power and militancy
- met with both Johnson and Kennedy but not Truman and Eisenhower

49. Ella Baker

- a member of the NAACP until 1946
- a member of the SCLC until 1960
- a key member of the SNCC from 1960
- a delegate of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party