



# Thurgood Marshall - Study Guide

debate: a discussion in which many sides of an argument are presented.

freedom of conscience and expression: the right to say and think what you wish.

segregation: a system of keeping some people separate from others

justice: fair and equal treatment under a system of laws.

civil rights: the basic freedoms that all citizens deserve to have because they are citizens.

citizen: a person who is an official member of a city, town, or country.

authority: the right and power to lead.

boycott: refusing to buy, sell, or use certain goods or services as a way to protest something.

**Chapter 1 - Childhood:** Marshall's knowledge of the Constitution helped him when he became a lawyer.

- As a child, Thurgood often argued with his teachers, which sometimes bothered them. To keep him busy, his teachers had him study the United States Constitution.

**Chapter 2 - Finding a Purpose:** Marshall respected and accepted the authority of the United States Supreme Court. This is where he went to win rights for African Americans. The fact that African Americans were not treated the same was a major **obstacle** that he faced.

- Thurgood went to Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. to get his law degree instead of going to Maryland Law School (even though it was closer) because the University of Maryland Law School did NOT allow African Americans to attend.
- Charles Hamilton Houston was Marshall's teacher at Howard University that helped him work to change unjust laws.
- 3 examples of segregation: African Americans were kept apart from other Americans in many public places, sports teams, universities, and in the movies.

**Chapter 3 - Civil Rights:** As a lawyer, Thurgood fought for civil rights.

- Thurgood worked as a lawyer for the NAACP. (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

**Chapter 4 - Ending School Segregation:** Brown Versus the Board of Education was the famous court case that decided that segregation was illegal.

- Thurgood and the NAACP are remembered for the "Brown Versus the Board of Education" case. Be ready to describe the reason, decision, and effect of this case on American children.

**Reason :** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader Linda Brown, wasn't allowed to go to school closest to her home because she was African American. Her father took the school board of Topeka, Kansas to court because he wanted her to go to that school.

**Decision:** The NAACP and Thurgood Marshall helped. The segregation laws should not be in effect if they did not follow the Constitution. Marshall took the cases to the Supreme Court to argue that to be equal, African American children had to be able to go to the same schools as others.

**Effect:** All 9 Supreme Court judges agreed with Thurgood Marshall, so they decided that school segregation was against the law. From there on, children have been able to go to any public school regardless of their color.

#### Chapter 5 - A Supreme Court Judge

- Marshall received many honors for his work for civil rights: a **statue** stands in front of the federal building in his **hometown in Baltimore** and the **United States Postal Service made a stamp** to honor him.
- In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson chose Marshall to serve as a judge on the United States Supreme Court.

#### Mapping His Life - 1941 Norfolk ,Virginia

- Marshall wins the right of an African American teacher to be paid the same as other teachers. The NAACP uses this case to win other equal pay cases all across the country.

#### Cases won by Marshall:

1944	Harris County, Texas	Right of African Americans to vote in certain elections protected
1948	St. Louis, Missouri	Right of African Americans to live in any neighborhood protected
1954	Topeka, Kansas	Segregation of public school ends
1961	New Orleans, Louisiana	Right of African Americans to eat at same restaurants as others protected