The Civil Rights Era

Outcome: Background & Early Events
It Started With Slavery...
Background & Early Events

1. A Divided America
   a. The North defeats the South in American Civil War fought over slavery
   b. In 1865, the 13th Amendment ended slavery but not white racism
   c. In 1868, the 14th Amendment extended citizenship to blacks
   d. In 1870, the 15th Amendment gave suffrage rights to black males
   e. Anti-Black protests heightened during the 1870s
      i. Formation of the KKK (racist organization)
      ii. Jim Crow Laws were passed to keep blacks segregated & from voting (ex. Poll taxes and literacy tests)
Homer Plessy
Background & Early Events

2. Plessy v. Ferguson *(civil disobedience & legal action)*
   a. **Homer Plessy** boarded a railroad car designated for whites only
   b. Plessy was 1/8\(^{th}\) black and was required to sit in the “colored car”
   c. In an act of planned **disobedience**, he refused to move; arrested & **jailed**
   d. 1896 case of Plessy v. Ferguson
      i. 7-1 ruling set standard of “**Separate but Equal**” for next 58 years
      ii. **Segregation** was made legal as long as each facility was equal
      iii. Truth was separate was **rarely equal**
Background & Early Events

3. **NAACP**
   a. National *Association* for the *Advancement* of Colored People est. 1909
   b. Goal: fight segregation and establish *equal rights* & opportunities for blacks
Background & Early Events

4. Presidential Leadership
   a. President Harry Truman desegregated the armed forces in 1946
   b. Not all presidents would support the Civil Rights movement
Jackie Robinson
Background & Early Events

5. Jackie Robinson (personal statement)
   a. First to break color barrier in baseball in 1947
   b. Was chosen because he could handle the threats, not because he was the best player
   c. His #42 is retired in all of Major League Baseball today
Ebbets Field
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