

LESSON 4. On the road to freedom

Communicative area: describing the Civil Rights Movement in the USA

1. a) Read the famous quotation. What does it mean?

We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat.

b) The quotation belongs to Martin Luther King Jr. Have you heard of him? What do you know about him? Read the information below and check.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (15 January, 1929 – 4 April, 1968) was an American pastor, activist and humanitarian. On 14 October, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violence. He led the U.S. Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.



2. a) Listen to the beginning of the program and answer the question: Why did African Americans start the Civil Rights Movement?

b) Listen again and fill in the gaps.

Before the Civil Rights Movement

Before the American Civil War, there were almost 1. ... black slaves in the United States. Only white men with property could vote, and only white people could be United States citizens. After the Civil War, the United States government passed three Constitutional amendments (*поправки*):

1. the 13th Amendment ended slavery in 2. ...;

2. the 14th Amendment gave African Americans citizenship in 3. ...;


3. the 15th Amendment gave African American men the right to vote in 4. ... (No women in the U.S. could vote at the time. Only in 5. ... the 19th Amendment gave them this right.).

However, in many states, especially, in the South, there was racial segregation – separation of blacks and whites. For example, blacks could not:

- go to the same schools, restaurants, or 6. ... as whites;
- use the same 7. ... as whites or drink from the same water fountains;
- sit 8. ... whites on buses.

Violence against black people increased. Individuals, groups, police, and huge crowds of people could hurt or even kill African Americans, without the government trying to stop them or punishing them. African Americans tried to fight back against racial 9. Their activists decided to use a combination of protests and nonviolence. This is how the African-American Civil Rights Movement of 10. ... began.

3. a)   Listen to the next part of the program about an important event of the Civil Rights Movement. What form of segregation did the Montgomery Boycott activists fight against?

Segregation is the policy of keeping people from different groups, especially different races, separate. 

b)   Listen again and correct five mistakes in the text below.

On 1 December, 1965, local black leader Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus to make room for a white passenger. She was fined.

African-Americans gathered and organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They decided they would not drive buses again until they were treated the same as whites. Under segregation, blacks could not sit in front of whites – they had to sit in the back of the bus. Also, if a white person told a black person to move so they could sit down, the black person had to.



Most of Montgomery's 15,000 African Americans took part in the boycott. It lasted for 831 days and almost bankrupted the bus system. As a result, the Supreme Court ordered Alabama to de-segregate its buses. The boycott ended with a victory.

4. a) Read about another important event of the Civil Rights Movement. What iconic speech did Martin Luther King Jr. give there?

The March on Washington in 1963 was one of the largest non-violent protests for human rights in the United States history. Together, the participants marched from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. There, they listened to civil rights leaders speak. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke last. His speech, called "I have a dream", became one of history's most famous civil rights speeches.



b)   Listen to some extracts from his iconic speech. What was his dream?

c)   Listen again and complete the sentences.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together **1. ...** .

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by **2. ...** .

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "**3. ...** "

d) How do you understand the last words in Martin Luther King's speech?

5. What does the abbreviation BLM stand for? What do you know about this movement? Read the paragraph and check your guesses.

In 2013, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement began. In the United States and many other countries around the world, people are protesting against violence and systemic racism towards black people, especially by (mostly white) police officers, whose job is to serve and protect them. Hundreds of thousands of people in the US and around the world are going into the streets holding signs and marching to raise awareness of the problems faced by people in the Black community.

6. Work in groups. Remember what you have learned in the lesson and create the timeline of the major events on the road to freedom.

LESSON 5. You should have seen it!

Communicative area: expressing opinion on famous American sights

Active grammar: modal verbs + Perfect Infinitive

1. Work in pairs. What places in the USA would you recommend your friend to see? Why?

2. a) What do you know about the places in the pictures?



the White House



Las Vegas



the Grand Canyon



the Mayflower II, Plymouth



Mount Rushmore