

Civil Rights Timeline

- 1896: Plessy V. Ferguson** - This Supreme Court ruling establishes the legality of “separate but equal” facilities, ushering the era of Jim Crow segregation.
- 1909: NAACP Founded** - The National Association of the Advancement of Colored People is formed to promote the use of the court system to help black Americans regain their legal rights under the 14th Amendment.
- 1942: CORE Founded** - The Congress of Racial Equality is founded in Chicago as a non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to using the tactics of Gandhi to improve life for black Americans. This pacifist, interracial organization helped refine many of the protest actions used in the 60’s and 70’s before transforming to a more radical, black power movement.
- 1948: Military Desegregated** - President Harry Truman ends legal segregation in the U. S. Armed forces.
- 1954: Brown v. Board of Education** - In this landmark case, the Supreme Court rules that segregation in schools is unconstitutional, concluding “In the field of public educational the doctrine ‘separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.” However, with white schools zealously resisting the enrollment of blacks, and some even closing rather than desegregating, it takes more than a decade of further struggle for any significant integration to occur.
- 1955: The Murder of Emmett Till** - A fourteen-year-old Chicago boy, visiting relatives in Mississippi, allegedly whistles at a white woman. Her husband and his half-brother brutally beat him and throw him in the river with a metal fan tied around his neck. Despite the evidence, a jury of 12 white men acquits them of murder. Emmett Till’s mother, Mamie Bradley holds an open casket funeral for her son, to show the world the horrors of the Jim Crow South.
- 1955-56: Montgomery Bus Boycott** - On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of the bus to a white man because, as she says, “I thought about Emmett Till and I couldn’t go back.” In response to her arrest, black community leaders, led by Martin Luther King, Jr., organize a bus boycott. By establishing their own private transportation system, they are able to continue the boycott for an entire year, forcing Montgomery to integrate completely their bus system by the end of 1956.
- 1957: Little Rock, Arkansas** - Despite the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, it wasn’t until 1957 that Little Rock’s Central High School attempts to desegregate. But when nine black students arrive at school in Sept., they are denied entry by the Arkansas National Guard, under orders from Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus. Three days later the group of nine students returns to Central High School only to be met by a mob of 1,000 townspeople. President Eisenhower is forced to send federal troops to Little Rock to enforce the desegregation order and keep peace. Finally, on Sept. 24, the nine students are escorted into the building and Central High is desegregated.
- 1957: SCLC Founded** - The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is founded by civil rights leaders to coordinate the movement’s efforts. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected its president, emphasizing the organization’s roots in the black church and its firm commitment to non-violence. The SCLC becomes the central force in the civil rights movement during the 1960’s.

Civil Rights Timeline (*cont'd*)

1957: Civil Rights Act of 1957 - This piece of legislation guarantees federal protection for voting rights, and spurs the SCLC to focus its efforts on voter registration. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 also establishes the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, which investigates civil rights abuses in the areas of education, voting rights, and housing.

February 1958: Crusade for Citizenship - The SCLC launches a movement in 22 southern cities with the objective of registering one million new black voters by the November 1960 election. Unfortunately, the campaign generates great opposition from Southern politicians and does little to increase the number of black southerners registered to vote.

August 1958: Oklahoma Sit-in - 35 members of the NAACP Youth Council occupy all seats at a local luncheonette, but are refused service. When they return the next day, they were served.

October 1958: Children's March - This march protesting school segregation attracts 20,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial. Among those speaking are Jackie Robinson, Harry Belafonte, and Coretta Scott King. However, a delegation of students led by Belafonte are refused a meeting with President Eisenhower.

April 1959: Youth March - More than 30,000 people meet at the Washington Monument in support of school integration and civil rights legislation. Among the speakers are Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson. A petition is presented to the White House calling for faster action by the federal government in bringing about school integration.

February One, 1960: Sit-in Movement

Greensboro, NC is the catalyst for a far-reaching student movement when four young men from NC A & T State University organize their own sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter. The intense media coverage quickly touches off demonstrations across the state - in Raleigh, Henderson, Shelby, New Bern, Rutherford, Elizabeth City, High Point, Concord, Monroe, and Salisbury. By the end of February, sit-ins have spread to Nashville, Chattanooga, Richmond, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Lexington. By the end of April there have been sit-ins in more than 30 communities in 7 states. By the end of the year, 75,000 students, both black and white, have participated in sit-ins, launching a new phase of the civil rights movement.

April 1960: SNCC Founded - Inspired by the Sit-Ins, student activists attend a conference in Raleigh where they form the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Martin Luther King, Jr. gives the keynote address, calling the sit-ins a "turning point" in history. The SNCC is a grassroots organization dedicated to local direct action. Though the students share the SCLC's philosophy of non-violence, their organization is not based in the church, but in the frustrated idealism of youth. In 1963, the SNCC carries out 630 demonstrations in 115 cities in 11 states.

1961: Freedom Rides - CORE organizes bus rides through the Jim Crow South to test recent Supreme Court rulings outlawing segregation on buses and trains. The non-violent protest is brutally received at many stops along the way as both black and white travelers are beaten and harassed.

1962: University of Mississippi Riots - When James Meredith attempts to become the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi, a riot breaks out in which two students are killed. In the most serious clash between federal and state governments since the Civil War. President Kennedy sends 5,000 federal troops to Oxford to keep peace as Meredith quietly registers.

1963: Birmingham - Birmingham is a hotbed of activism. Protesters hold sit-ins at lunch counters and “kneel-ins” on church steps. Hundreds of demonstrators are fined and imprisoned. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend Abernathy, and Reverend Shuttlesworth lead a protest march in Birmingham. The protestors are met with policemen and dogs, and the three ministers are jailed. However, the events in Birmingham succeed in drawing much national attention to the Civil Rights Movement.

August 29, 1963: March on Washington - 250,000 marchers meet in Washington, DC in the Civil Rights Movement’s largest public demonstration. This orderly, dignified show of strength broadens the movement to embrace the poor and disenfranchised of all races. A highlight is Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech that introduces his oratory to a national television audience and becomes the symbol of the movement.

1964: Freedom Summer - SNCC, CORE, NAACP, and SCLC join in a massive voter registration effort in Mississippi before the 1964 presidential election. Idealistic young workers are shocked at the brutal racism they encounter, as many are arrested, assaulted, and even fired on. Three SNCC workers are killed and 21 Klansmen are convicted, not of murder, but of denying them their civil rights.

1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964 - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes racial discrimination in public places, such as theaters, restaurants, and hotels, illegal. It also requires employers to provide equal employment opportunities. Projects involving federal funds can now be cut off if there is evidence of discrimination based on color, race or national origin.

1965: Selma to Montgomery March - When a protester is killed during a peaceful voting-rights demonstration in Selma, Alabama, the SNCC and SCLC organize a march to the state capital in Montgomery. Police attack the passive marchers in a terrible conflict televised across the world, prompting President Johnson to propose the Voting Rights Act.

1965: Voting Rights Act of 1965 - A natural follow up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, this act eliminates discrimination in the area of voting, specifically outlawing poll taxes, literacy tests and the Grandfather Clause.

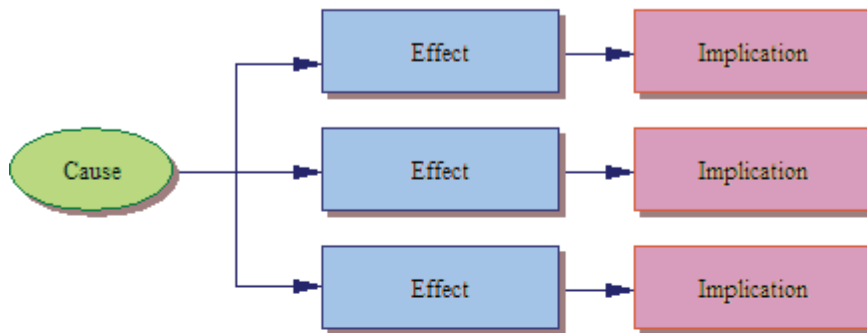
April 4, 1968: Memphis - The strike of largely black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee turns violent during a march, when buildings are burned and one rioter is killed. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis to support the workers and reaffirm his philosophy of non-violence, is assassinated outside his hotel room.

1968: Open Housing Act of 1968 - This last major piece of 1960’s civil rights legislation forbids discrimination in federal housing. Together with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, this law brings an end to the legal foundation of Jim Crow segregation.

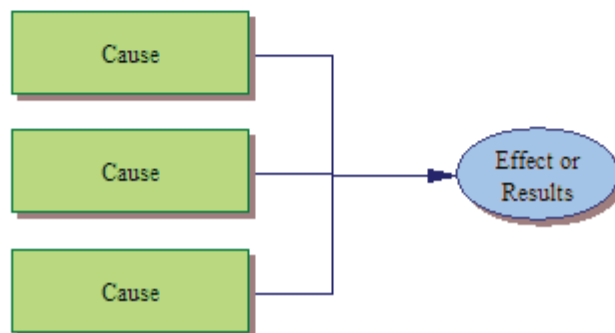
Cause and Effect Organizational Charts

Cause and effect organizational charts (*all from Inspiration*)* are valuable tools in assessing student's understanding and a great activity to use with the previous timeline. Students will analyze *why* events happen (causes) and the effects they have on any array of aspects or people in society. They will begin to comprehend that at times, effects can become causes in themselves and society becomes a vicious cycle of causes and effects. The Civil Rights Movement is the perfect platform to effectively teach students the cause and effect relationship. On the following 2 pages you will find other valuable organizational charts that may be modified for your classes capabilities or activities. Blank pages and transparencies for these activities will be found in the final section of this guide. Blank Templates found on pages 41-43.

One cause can have several effects,

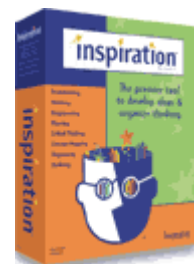


or several causes can lead to one effect.

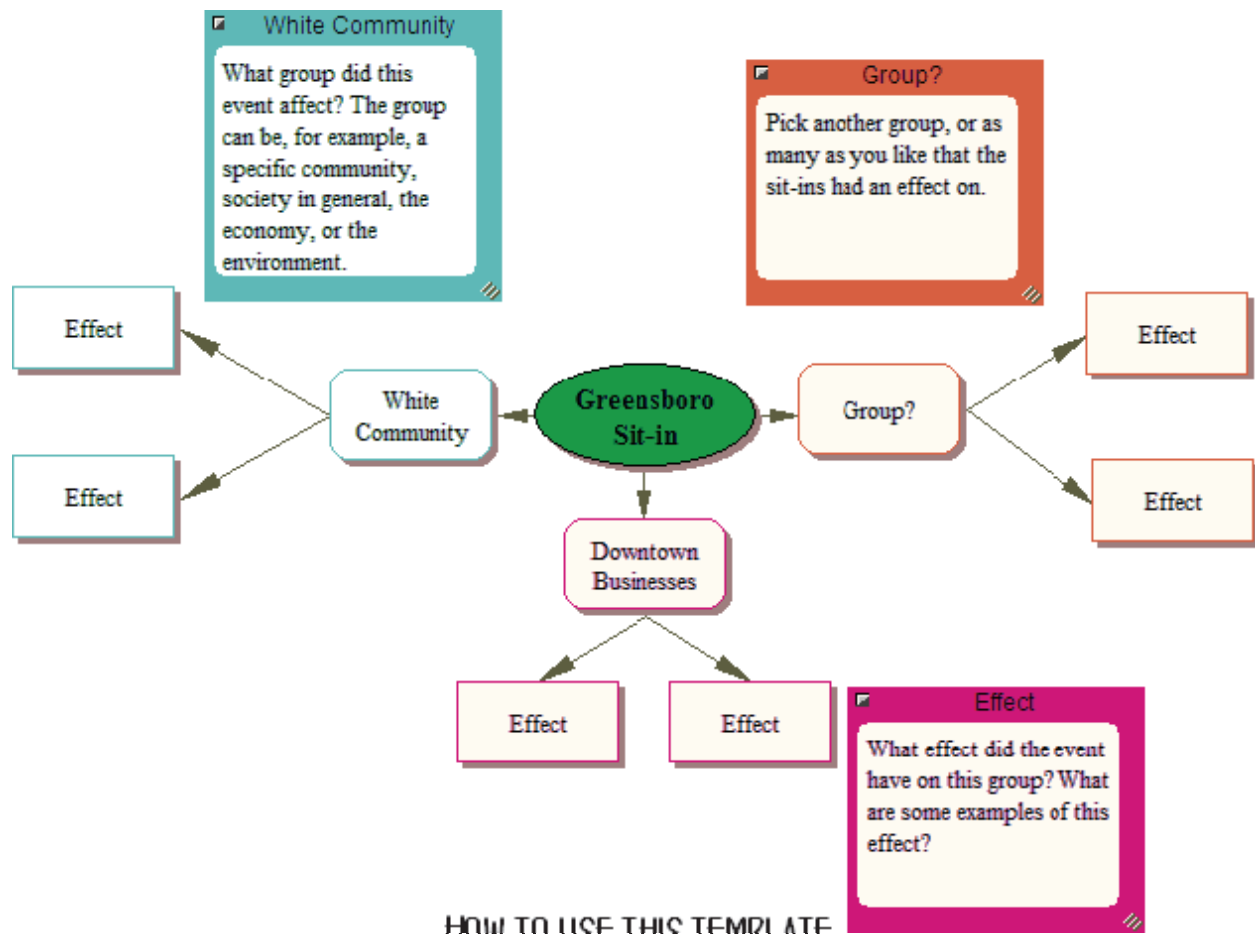


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Group Effect

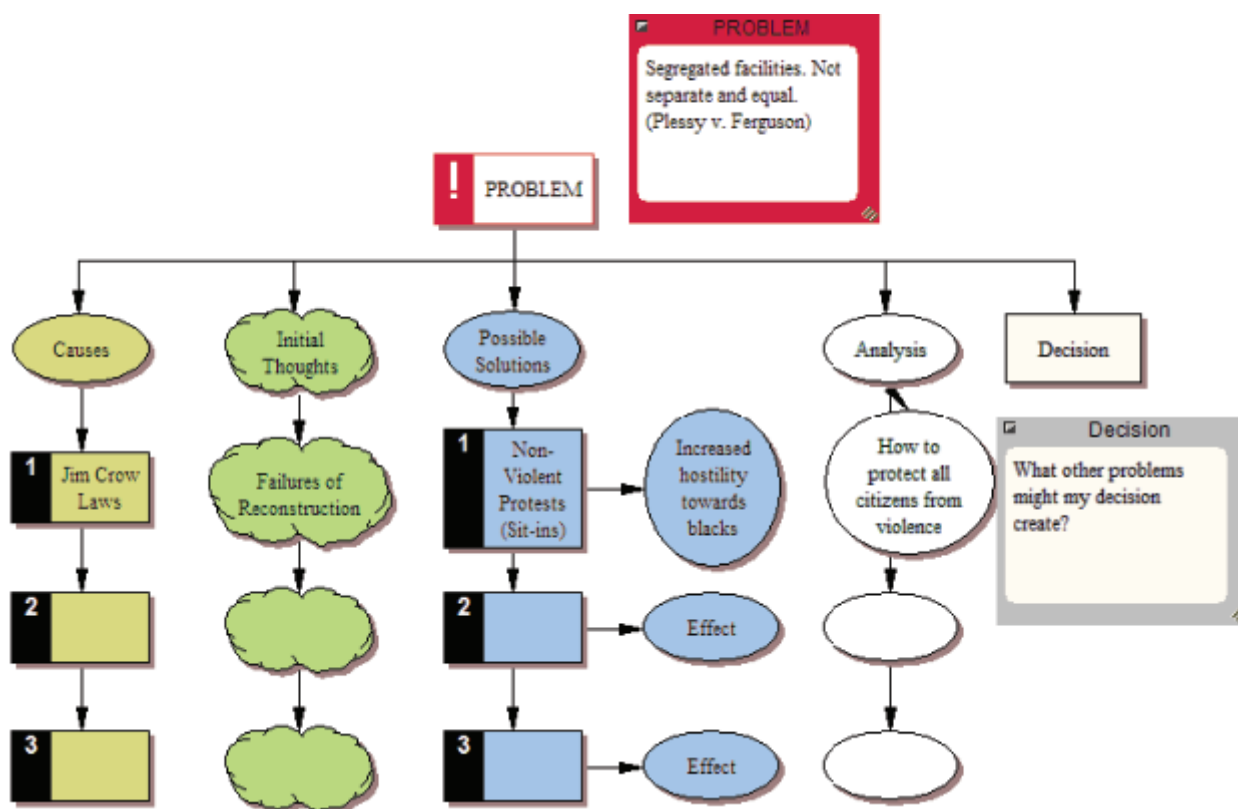


1. Indicate a specific event in the symbol labeled (an example is supplied)
2. Enter the names of specific groups affected by the event into the symbols labeled
3. Enter the effects the event had on each group into the symbols labeled
4. For each effect, use a Notes area to document examples.
5. Add symbols as necessary.

BENEFITS OF USING THE EFFECT OF EVENT TEMPLATE

Often students see history as a series of events, without understanding their actual impact on various groups involved. This template allows students to analyze the effects of an event from multiple perspectives. It can be used in science, language arts, and social studies curricula. For example, students can examine the effects of events such as the invention of the printing press or the development of atomic energy.

Problem Solving



HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

1. Enter a problem into the symbol labeled (example: Segregated facilities, etc.)
2. List elements of the cause under the symbol labeled Add more symbols as necessary. (Tradition, racism, laws, etc.)
3. Discuss the problem and enter details from the discussion under the symbol labeled "Initial
4. Select possible solutions. Enter these into the symbols associated with this category. Enter probable outcomes into the symbols labeled
5. Discuss the problem and various solutions again. Enter details from the discussion under the symbol labeled
6. Formulate a statement that represents the results of this process and enter it into the symbol labeled
7. Use the Notes to add notes and record explanatory information.

BENEFITS OF USING THE PROBLEM SOLUTION TEMPLATE

Oftentimes solving a problem calls for a process in which various solutions can be tried and then refined. This template can be applied to classroom or interpersonal problems, or form the basis of discussion for the Civil Rights Movement, in mock United Nations, or city council projects.

REMINDER! BLANK COPIES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS GUIDE.