

Civil Rights

Postwar United States
(1945–1975)



Challenging segregation

A national movement

Equal rights

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will know about the following aspects of the struggle for civil rights for different groups of Americans:

- Latino civil rights groups
- Changing policies towards Native Americans
- Feminism in the 1960s and 1970s
- The Equal Rights Amendment
- *Roe v. Wade.*



By 1970, over 9 million **Latinos** were living in the U.S.

Latinos came from very diverse cultural backgrounds. Many had immigrated from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba or Central America to escape civil war and poverty. Others had lived in the United States for generations.

Despite their many differences, all Latinos faced racism and discrimination. In the mid-20th century, Latino poverty rates were one and a half times higher than those of white Americans.





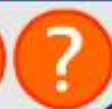
Latino activist groups



In the late 1960s, Latino organizations began demanding better education, job opportunities and working conditions. Activists also wanted to protect their cultural heritage from assimilation into Anglo-American culture. Press the tabs to learn more about several Latino activist groups.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Native Americans are another extremely diverse group of Americans who have faced serious discrimination.

Over the years, the U.S. government repeatedly violated treaties with various tribes, encroaching further and further onto native land.

In the mid-1900s, new government termination policies encouraged Native Americans to leave their reservations and assimilate to western culture.





Native American rights



Discrimination and lack of job training made it difficult for Native Americans to find jobs. Without land and without government aid, they continued to struggle with high poverty and unemployment rates. Press on the dates to read about events in that year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Women also faced widespread discrimination.

By the 1960s there were nearly as many women in the workforce as men, yet women were paid far less and were rarely promoted. Many jobs were closed to women altogether.



As women joined the Civil Rights Movement, they often found their opinions ignored or belittled. As they fought for equal rights for others, they came to realize the limitations on their own rights.



Feminism is the belief that men and women should be legal, political and social equals.

In 1966, a group of feminists created the **National Organization for Women (NOW)** to work for stricter enforcement of gender equality laws under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. By 1969, NOW had 175,000 members.

As the movement continued, feminists and lawmakers chipped away at discriminatory policies in education and the workplace.





Equal Rights Amendment



In 1972, Congress approved the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**, which reads:

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

The ERA needed ratification by 38 states in order to be added to the Constitution.

Conservative religious groups and anti-feminists campaigned against the ERA. It was defeated in 1982, three states short of ratification.





Press on the folder tabs to learn more about the historic Supreme Court decision in the case of **Roe v. Wade**.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your knowledge of the Civil Rights era with the following quiz. Choose the correct answer to see how much you can remember.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the Civil Rights era by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary.

Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start

