Inquiry in the Upper Midwest

SCHOOL INTEGRATION
Then & Now
**Plessy v. Ferguson**

- 1896
- Supreme Court decision made it legal to separate people by race in public spaces, including schools
- “Separate but equal”

At the bus station in Durham, North Carolina 1940
• 17 states + DC had segregation laws
• 16 states had laws banning segregation
• 4 states allowed local government to make laws about segregation
• 11 states had no laws about segregation

Segregation in the United States, 1950
Brown v. Board

- 1954
- Supreme Court decided it was not legal to separate children in schools by the color of their skin.

Mrs. Nettie Hunt explaining to her daughter Nikie the meaning of the Supreme Court's decision banning school segregation, 1954.
The *Brown v Board* decision required all US schools to integrate.

How do you imagine school integration worked?

- What were some of the challenges? Why did these challenges exist?
- How much time would it take to integrate schools?

Discuss with a partner. Be prepared to share.
Segregation in the United States after *Brown v Board*, 1958
In groups, analyze your assigned photo by finishing the following thoughts:

- I see...
- I think...
- I wonder...
PHOTO ANALYSIS

In your groups, work together to predict the chronological order of all 7 photos.

- What information helps you figure out when the photo was taken?
- What information do you need in order to be sure?
1986 *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- The Supreme Court said it was fair to have separate public spaces for black and white people because they were equal. This picture shows a sign at the Greyhound bus station.

1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*
- This Supreme Court decision made it illegal to separate children in schools by the color of their skin.

1956 Clinton, TN
- 12 African American students planned to attend high school in Clinton, TN. There were protests about integrating the school. The National Guard was brought in.
1959 Little Rock, AR
• An African American boy watches a crowd of people marching to Central High School in Arkansas. They were marching to protest against black students going to Central High School.

1963 Alabama
• Governor George Wallace of Alabama blocks entrance into University of Alabama because he did not want integration.

1964 Prince Edward County, VA
• This photo was taken 10 years after the US Supreme Court banned segregation and shows a class of both black and white students.
1964 Washington, DC
- Black students re-enter public schools in Farmville, Virginia. For nearly 5 years, no public schools were available to black students.

1968 Green v. County School Board of New Kent County, VA
- Supreme Court decided the 'freedom of choice' plan did not integrate schools. The photo shows white mothers protesting black students who were being bussed to the all-white school.

1971 Swan v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
- Supreme Court decides that busses can be used to integrate schools. To make sure schools are integrated, students could be bussed to schools outside their neighborhood.
EXAMINE THE TIMELINE

• What is the same about these events? What is different?
• What changes have happened because of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision?
• How does each photo show support or resistance to school integration?
• 15 years after the Brown v. Board decision, did people accept school integration? What do you see in the photos that helps you know?
● What did people do to make the change to integrate schools?
- When did segregation end?
- Does segregation still exist?
- How do you know?

Schools in the United States Today

Data from research by Tomas E. Monarrez, an economics PhD candidate at the University of California, Berkeley
HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

• Are we better off today? Why or why not?
• Have we changed enough? How do we know?
• How do we know when change is necessary?
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