

# Civil Rights Before 1954





## The Main Idea

- The progress toward equality for African-Americans in the United States was a slow moving process until Brown v. Board (1954).



# History of Slavery

- To Meet their growing labor needs, Europeans enslaved millions of Africans in forced labor in the Americas.
- Slavery in Africa, as in other parts of the world, had existed for ages.
- Slavery is thought to be as old as civilization itself.



## Desire for Africans

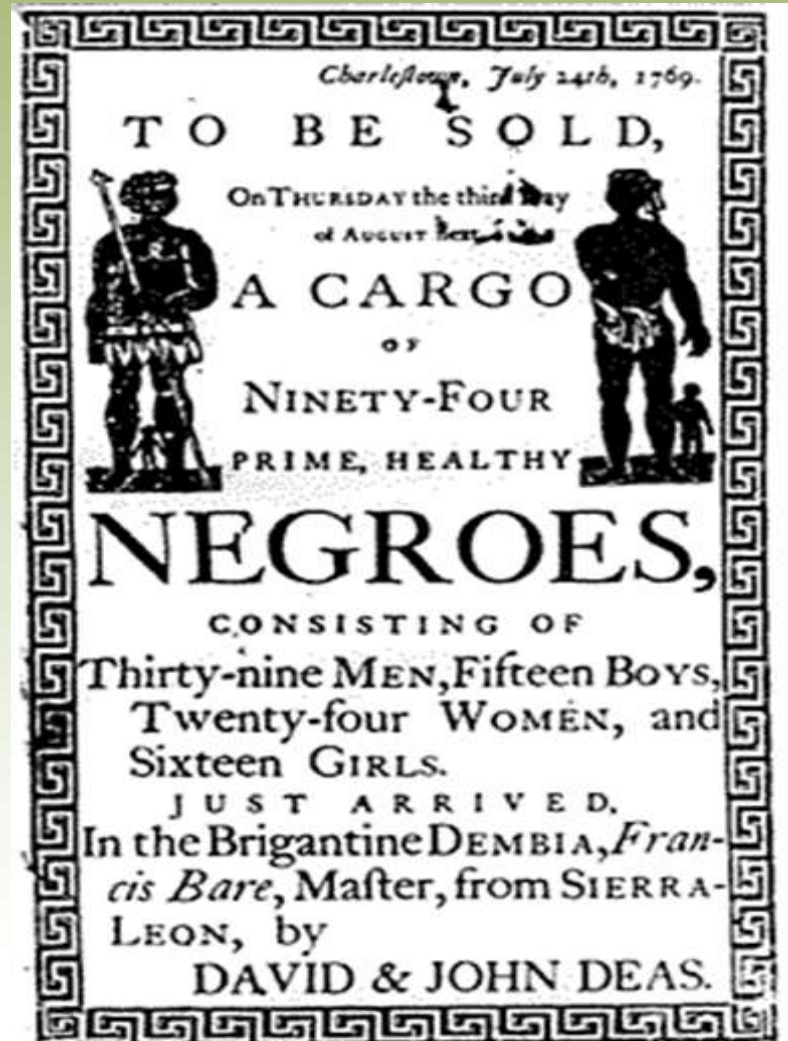
- There were several advantages in using Africans:

- They had been exposed to European diseases
- They had experience in farming
- They had little knowledge of the land and there were no familiar tribes



# Pre-1900

- Opposition to slavery in colonial days
- Abolition movement and Civil War
- Legalized racism after Reconstruction



In 1769 the firm of David and John Deas advertised the sale of 94 African-Americans in Charleston, SC.

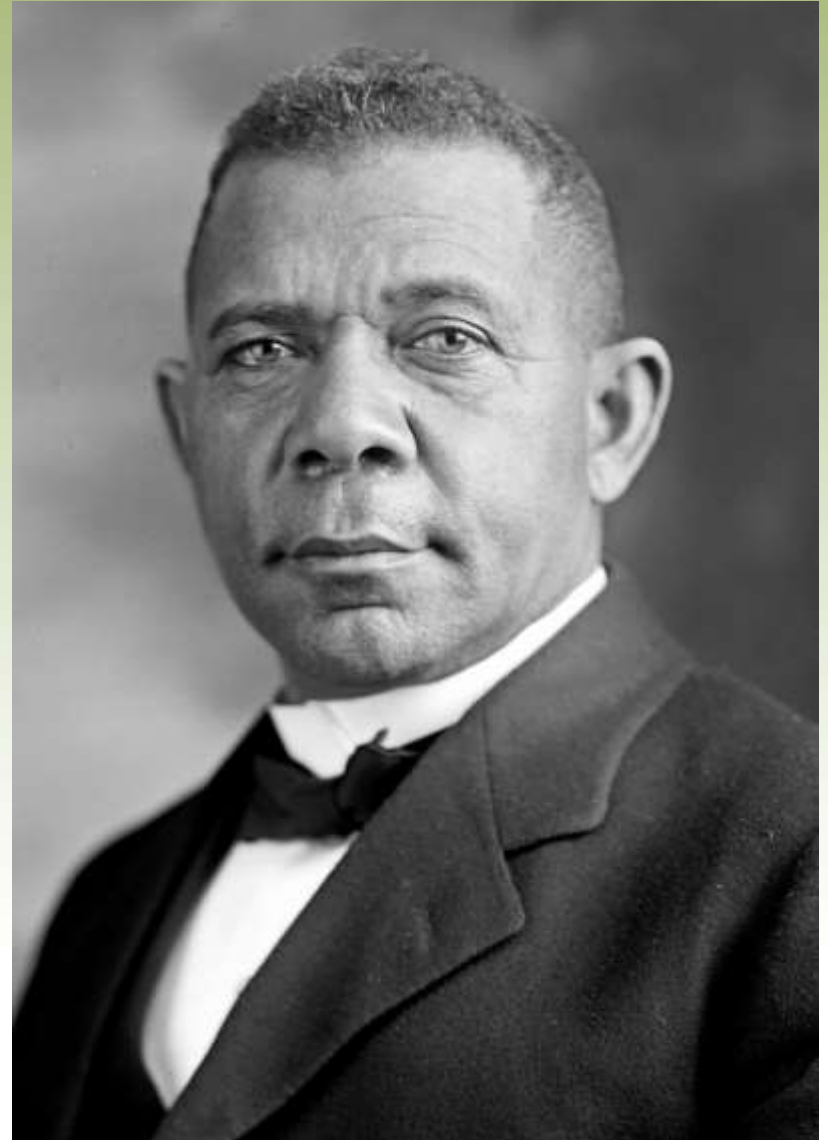
1896

- Plessy v. Ferguson allowed the segregation of African Americans and whites.



# To 1930

- Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois
- Founding of the NAACP in 1909
- African Americans suffered worse than others during the Great Depression.
- Roosevelt unwilling to push too hard for greater African American rights.





# The NAACP

- Began to chip away at the 1896 Supreme Court ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson—the legal basis for segregation.



# To 1940

- A. Philip Randolph forced a federal ban against discrimination in defense work.
- 1940s founding of CORE
- President Truman desegregated the armed forces.
- Brooklyn Dodgers put an African American—Jackie Robinson—on its roster.



# EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS VICTORIES

QUICK  
FACTS

Early efforts in the civil rights movement included the following gains:

<b>1940</b>	NAACP Legal Defense Fund founded by Thurgood Marshall
<b>1941</b>	Ban against discrimination in defense industry
<b>1942</b>	Founding of CORE
<b>1947</b>	Integration of Major League Baseball by Jackie Robinson (right)
<b>1948</b>	Desegregation of armed forces

# Seeking Change in the Courts

- The NAACP attacked racism through the courts.
- In the 1930s Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall began a campaign to attack the concept of “separate but equal.”



## Examples:

- 1938 – Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada, Registrar of the University of Missouri
- 1950 – Sweatt v. Painter





Order of Operations

# Civil Rights Movement Intro Worksheet