

Thurgood Marshall-Civil Rights Leader and Supreme Court Justice

Source 1

Thurgood Marshall is famous for being a prominent civil rights leader and the first African American Supreme Court Justice. His dedication to the equal treatment for African Americans led him to be a key contributor to the end of segregation in American schools.

Thurgood was born on July 2, 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland. His mother was a school teacher and his father enjoyed listening to court cases at the local court house. He would come home and discuss the cases with Thurgood and his brother. Thurgood realized his skills and a love for arguing around his own family's dinner table.

Thurgood attended Fredrick Douglass High School where he became a star of the debate team. Although he earned average grades and found himself in trouble for arguing often, his academic career was far from over. He graduated high school in 1926 having memorized the United States Constitution as a punishment for his trouble-making ways.

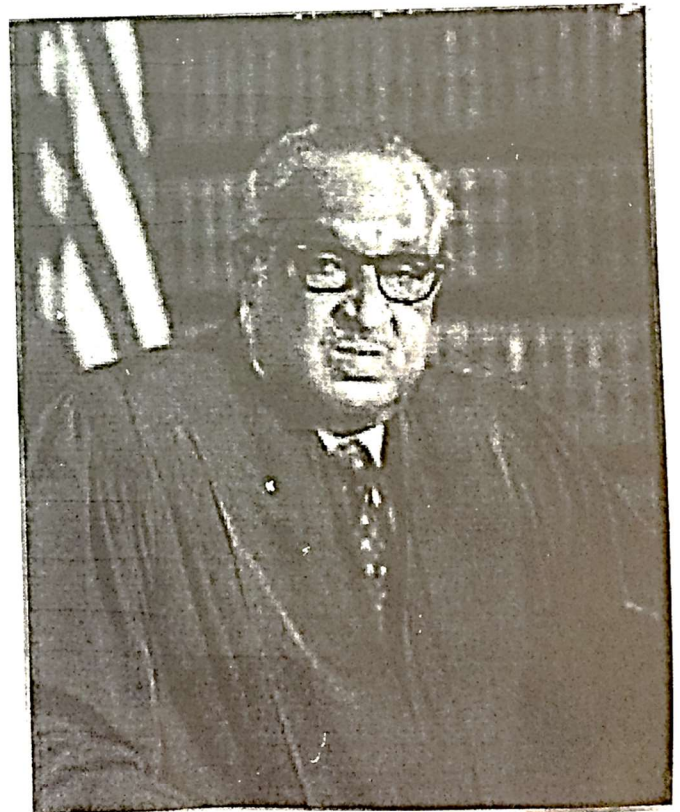


After graduating high school, Marshall attended Lincoln University, a predominately African American college in Pennsylvania. As a member of a highly recognized student body, he graduated with honors in 1930. After, he applied to the University of Maryland Law School, but was denied entry because of his race. Instead he attended Howard University, and earned a law degree in 1933.

After starting his own law practice for a short time, Marshall began working with the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). There he was able to win many cases for the advancement of the civil rights movement. His first case, was one against the same university that denied his entry to their law program. He won the case, against the University of Maryland but didn't stop there.

In his most famous case, Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, Marshall argued against the "separate but equal" concept within American Schools. The high court accepted his argument and ended the segregation of African American students in the United States. Thurgood Marshall's impressive courtroom record encouraged President Johnson to appoint him as the first African American on the Supreme Court.

Marshall stayed on the Supreme Court for 24 years. He continued to protect minorities and pursue civil rights. Marshall retired from the court in 1991 and died two years later.



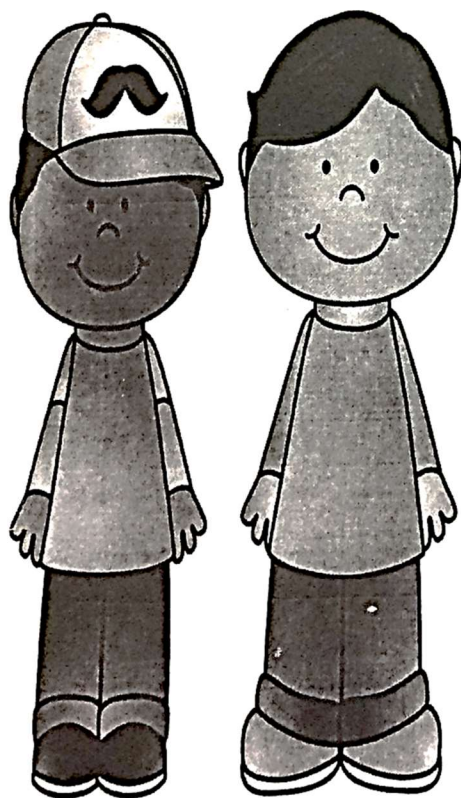
Brown vs. Board of Education-A Case for Equality in Education

Source 2

During the early part of the 1950's most public schools in the United States were segregated by race. White students went to all white schools and black students went to all black schools. This separation was withheld in the United States Supreme Court until 1954 in a case titled Brown vs. Board of Education.

In a law suit, Oliver Brown, a parent of an African American child who was denied access to a white school, said that it was unconstitutional (went against the constitution) to separate students. He and many others knew the black schools would never be equal to the white schools where they lived in Topeka, Kansas and all over the United States.

During the civil rights movement, a group called the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) argued that



“separate but equal” schools would never be equal. Thurgood Marshall was an attorney who fought for civil rights and fought hard to end inequalities within the country. He along with Robert Carter argued that white and black children should be allowed to attend the same schools.

On May 17th 1954, many people surrounded the courthouse waiting for the outcome of the Brown vs. Board of Education trial. The conclusion was that “separate but equal” has no place in education. That children, no matter their race, would from that point on be able to receive an education at any public school.

Thurgood Marshall-Civil Rights Leader and Supreme Court Justice

The sources you read were about Thurgood Marshall and the civil rights movement. Write an informative essay in which you describe who Thurgood Marshall was and how he impacted education within the civil rights movement. Use information from the sources in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Read the passages;
- Plan your responses;
- Write your response; and
- Revise and edit your response

Be sure to include:

- An introduction;
- Support for your controlling idea using information from the passage; and
- A conclusion that is related to the controlling idea

Your writing should be in the format of a well organized multi paragraph essay.