

CHAPTER
14
SECTION 2

Section Summary

THE MOVEMENT GAINS GROUND

Despite some victories, activists continued to struggle for civil rights for African Americans. In North Carolina, four college students started a sit-in at a restaurant to protest discrimination. This **sit-in** led to sit-ins across the nation. A new civil rights organization, the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee**, or **SNCC**, began a grass-roots movement.

The next battleground was interstate transportation. The Supreme Court had ruled that segregation on interstate buses was illegal. In 1961, riders set off on two buses on a “**freedom ride**.” After the freedom riders met with violence, President John F. Kennedy intervened. The riders were successful.

In 1962, **James Meredith** enrolled at the all-white University of Mississippi. Civil rights activist **Medgar Evers** helped win the federal court case that ordered the university to desegregate. A riot broke out the night before Meredith’s arrival. Still, Meredith went on to graduate.

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., began a civil rights campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. It began with nonviolent marches and sit-ins. However, Birmingham’s Public Safety Commissioner would not tolerate the demonstrations. He used police dogs and fire hoses on the peaceful protesters. Many Americans were shocked by images of violence on the news.

To put pressure on Congress to pass a new civil rights bill, supporters planned a **March on Washington**. On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C. The highlight was King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson became President. Johnson used his political skills to gain the passage of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**. This act banned segregation in public places. The civil rights movement had changed the relationships between races. It also set the stage for future reforms.

Review Questions

1. What was the purpose of the March on Washington?

2. Describe the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

READING CHECK

Which civil rights organization began a grass-roots movement?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Find the word *tolerate* in the underlined sentence. The word *forbid* is an antonym of the word *tolerate*. The word *forbid* means “to not permit.” Use context clues and the meaning of *forbid* to figure out the meaning of *tolerate*.

READING SKILL

Summarize Summarize what James Meredith accomplished in 1962.
