



THURGOOD MARSHALL: MR. CIVIL RIGHTS

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Identify the contributions of Thurgood Marshall to the civil rights movement.
2. Recognize the characteristics of good citizenship such as truthfulness, justice, and respect for oneself and others.
3. Obtain information about Thurgood Marshall from pictures and literature.
4. Enhance their critical thinking skills by sequencing events in chronological order.

TEKS: 2.2A, 2.10A, 2.15A&B, 2.16

Materials Needed: *A Picture Book of Thurgood Marshall* by David A. Adler (or any book about Thurgood Marshall), sets of Thurgood Marshall Event Cards, copies of the Event Card Template.

Vocabulary: civil rights, United States Constitution, segregation, Supreme Court

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by telling students that many important things in history happened during the month of October. Did you know that:
 - a. The first “talking” movie opened in New York on October 6, 1927?
 - b. After a 33-day voyage across the ocean, Christopher Columbus landed in the New World (Bahamas) on October 16, 1492?
 - c. On October 21, 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested the first electric incandescent lamp, and it stayed lit for over 13 hours?
 - d. The New York City subway began operating on October 27, 1904, and was the first underground and underwater rail system in the world?
 - e. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor on October 28, 1886?
 - f. On October 31, 1941, Mount Rushmore was completed after 14 years of work?
 - g. Five U.S. Presidents were born in October: John Adams, Chester A. Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower?
2. Tell students that another important event happened in October. On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African-American Associate Supreme Court Justice of the United States.
3. Point out the picture of Thurgood Marshall on the cover of *The Picture Book of Thurgood Marshall* by David A. Adler (or another book about him). Read the book to the class.
4. Discuss the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think Thurgood Marshall’s parents thought a good education was important?
 - b. How do you think Thurgood Marshall felt when he had to sit in the “whites only” section in the movie theatre? Why?
 - c. In what ways did Thurgood Marshall exhibit the characteristics of good citizenship?
 - d. Why is it important for students to learn about Thurgood Marshall?
5. Give students, or pairs of students, sets of Thurgood Marshall Event Cards. Have students arrange the cards in chronological order. Check for accuracy.
6. Using the Event Card Template, students should make four additional cards that illustrate and explain other events that happened in Thurgood Marshall’s life. The cards should then be added to the original six cards and inserted in the correct location chronologically.

7. Have students shuffle their new set of cards and exchange their set of cards with another group. Students should put the cards they received in chronological order.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

Have students conduct research about the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education Topeka Kansas* (1954). (Resource: <http://www.socialstudieshelp.com/EdLaw.htm>) After reading the case summary, students should create a poster with words and/or pictures representing the following: (1) the name of the case; (2) the facts of the case; (3) the ruling of the court; and (4) the importance of the case to the civil rights movement.

Thurgood Marshall Event Cards



Thurgood Marshall was born in Maryland and named after his great-grandfather, who was a freed slave.



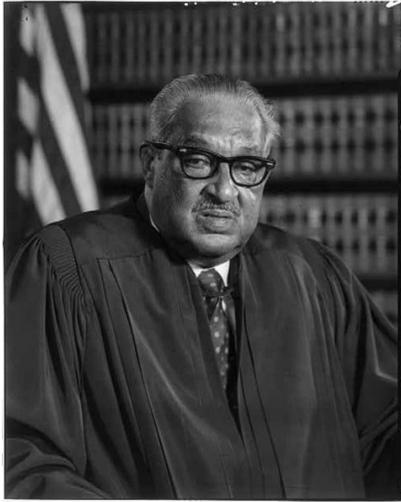
When he grew up, Thurgood Marshall became a lawyer and wanted all people to be treated fairly.



As a lawyer, he won 29 civil rights cases that he argued before the United States Supreme Court.



Next, President John F. Kennedy nominated Marshall as a judge to the U.S. Court of Appeals.



Then, President Johnson nominated Marshall as the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court, the highest court in our country.



After retiring from the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall died when he was 84-years-old.

Event Card Template

