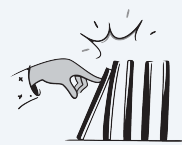# Cause and effect (advanced/expert)

Name: Date:

The Civil Rights Movement: A Struggle for Equality and Justice

The **Civil Rights Movement**, a pivotal era in American history, spanned the 1950s and 1960s, marking a profound period of activism aimed at ending racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans. This movement sought to secure African Americans' legal and civil rights, which had been systematically denied for centuries. It was a struggle for justice and equality that extended beyond the borders of the United States, inspiring numerous other global rights movements.

At the heart of the Civil Rights Movement were courageous leaders and ordinary citizens who risked everything to fight for equality. Figures such as **Martin Luther King Jr.**, **Rosa Parks**, **Malcolm X**, and organizations like the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** and the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)** became emblematic of the struggle. These leaders utilized nonviolent protest and civil disobedience as primary tactics, drawing on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The movement's strategies included boycotts, such as the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, sit-ins, marches, and legal challenges against discriminatory laws.

One of the most iconic events was the 1963 **March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom**, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech, envisioning a future where individuals would be judged by their character rather than the color of their skin. This event exemplified the movement's ability to rally support across different races and backgrounds.

The Civil Rights Movement achieved significant legislative victories, most notably the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**, which removed barriers to voting for African Americans and other minority groups. These laws marked a turning point, although they did not immediately eliminate all forms of discrimination.

The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement is enduring, reminding future generations of the power of collective action and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. Its history teaches valuable lessons about courage, resilience, and the importance of fighting for what is right, principles that continue to resonate and inspire movements for social justice today.

What are the causes and effects?

Cause	Effect
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)	Declared state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students unconstitutional
Systematic oppression and inequality	Sparked the Civil Rights Movement to end racial discrimination and segregation
Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)	Resulted in the desegregation of the city's buses and brought national attention to the movement
Nonviolent protests, sit-ins, and boycotts	Challenged segregation and discrimination, gaining momentum for the movement

Leadership of Martin Luther King Jr.	Inspired millions and helped to galvanize the movement with nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience
Civil Rights Act (1964)	Outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin
Voting Rights Act (1965)	Prohibited racial discrimination in voting
Opposition and violence against activists	Many activists were arrested, beaten, or killed for their efforts
Deep-seated racial tensions and divisions	Exposed the ongoing racial issues within American society

What are the causes and their effects?

Cause: Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his 'I Have a Dream' speech.

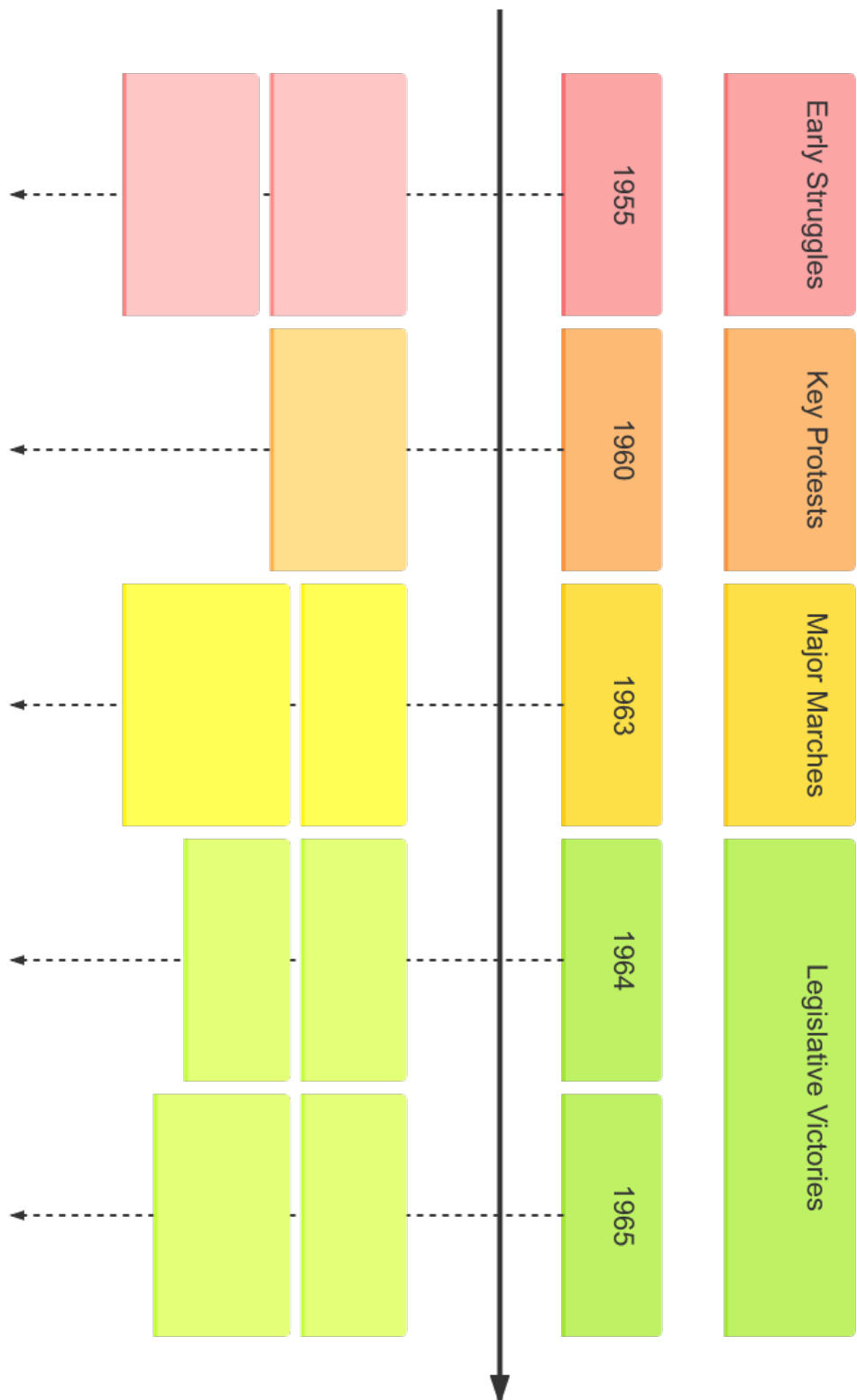The Civil Rights Movement gained more national attention.

Cause: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Cause: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted.

Cause: Activists organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters.

Cause: The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place.

Sometimes causes have long lasting effects. A timeline can help visualize the connections.

1955	Early Struggles
1960	Key Protests
1963	Major Marches
1964	Legislative Victories
1965	

Practice analyzing cause and effect

Choose one event from examples above and analyze cause and effect in detail