



## Brown v Board of Education (1954): Lesson Plan

Topic	
<i>Brown v Board of Education I</i> (1954): overturned the doctrine established in <i>Plessy v Ferguson</i> of "Separate but Equal." In a unanimous decision, the Court declared segregation in schooling unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Civics</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	30-45 mins
Video link:	
<a href="https://academy4sc.org/topic/brown-v-board-of-education-1954/">https://academy4sc.org/topic/brown-v-board-of-education-1954/</a>	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the cultural changes in the United States before, during, and after the <i>Brown</i> decision.</li> <li>• Describe the reasoning for overturning <i>Plessy v Ferguson</i> (1896)</li> </ul>	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
NAACP, Civil Rights Movement, <i>Plessy v Ferguson</i> (1896), The Cold War, Amicus Curiae	
Materials Needed	
Optional poster board	
Before you watch	
Class Discussion of Prior Knowledge	
Ask students what they know, if anything about <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> . If students do not have any prior knowledge on the topic, prompt them by asking	



about what was going on historically during the late 1940s, early 1950s, and 1960s. Ask students what they know about the Civil Rights Movement.

#### While you watch

Fill out the worksheet.

#### After you watch/discussion questions

- What types of segregation do you continue to see today in the American school system?
- Are there any circumstances where racial segregation in schools is constitutional?
- In what other ways, if any, do you believe the United States has yet to live up to the standard that “All Men Are Created Equal”?

#### Activity Ideas

- Divide students up into three groups. Depending on the size of the class, there can be multiple for each group. Have each group research one topic and make a poster board and a 5-minute presentation on each topic. Topics may include Life of Linda Brown, Role of the NAACP throughout American History, The Doll Studies, and more...
- Share as a class or with a partner what you learned from the video or were surprised by it. Was your prior knowledge about *Brown* correct?

#### Sources/places to learn more

- Erickson, A. T. (2012). Building Inequality: The Spatial Organization of Schooling in Nashville, Tennessee, after Brown. *Journal of Urban History*, 38(2), 247–270. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144211427115>
- Gillman, Howard. American Constitutionalism, Second Edition. Volume II Rights and Liberties. [Virtual Source Bookshelf].
- Biography.com Editors (April 15, 2019). “Linda Brown Biography.” The Biography.com website. *A&E Television Networks*. <https://www.biography.com/activist/linda-brown>
- Gillman, Howard. American Constitutionalism, Second Edition. Volume I Structures of Government. [Virtual Source Bookshelf].