**Major Events of the Civil Rights Movement: *Steps Forward and Steps Back***

***Instructions:*** *Read through the event descriptions below, determine whether each event was a “Step Forward” or a “Step Backward” for African Americans. Then copy the name of the event (written in bold font) in the correct space on the graphic organizer. If you feel that something was both positive and negative, write it in the space provided.*

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| **Dred Scott Decision:** A slave sued for his freedom when his master took him to free territory. The case went to the Supreme Court and in **1857,** they determined that slaves are considered to be property and therefore do not have the rights of citizens (including the right to sue). | **Greensboro Sit-in:** Four black students of a North Carolina college sat at a “whites only” lunch counter and requested service on **February 1, 1960**. The staff was ordered not to serve them and they remained until the store closed. More sit-ins were held across the state and country, and participants endured angry crowds and had food and drinks poured on them. |
| **Emancipation Proclamation:** Effective **on January 1, 1863,** in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln declared that slaves currently held in confederate states would be “henceforward and forever free”. | **James Meredith:** On **September 1, 1962**, a black college student, began his first day at the previously all white college “Ole Miss” (University of Mississippi). He was originally denied admission on the basis of race but sued the university and the Supreme Court ruled in his favor.  |
| **13th, 14th, 15th Amendments:** Ratified between **1865 and 1870**, these changes to the constitution declared slavery to be illegal in the United States, established that everyone born in the United States is a citizen, as well as prohibited discrimination of voting rights on the basis on race. | **Medger Evers Murdered:** An NAACP field worker was killed in his driveway by a known white supremacist on **June 12, 1963**. He had been a crusader for Civil Rights by helping to gather witnesses and evidence for the Emmett Till case and for registering many southern blacks to vote. |
| **Plessy Vs. Ferguson:** In **1896**, the Supreme Court declared that separate facilities for whites and blacks were constitutional as long as they were “equal”. | **March on Washington:** More than 200,000 Civil Rights supporters gather in the DC on **August 28, 1963** to increase attention for the Civil Rights Act, which was stalled in Congress. MLK delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech on steps of Lincoln memorial. |
| **NAACP:** Founded in **1909** and is a grassroots organization to fight for the equal rights of people in their community. | **16th St. Baptist Church:** Four young girls were killed in the basement of a church when the KKK bombed the building on **Sept. 15, 1963**. MLK spoke at the funeral and the emotional response of the community created momentum for the Civil Rights movement. |
| **Brown v. Board of Ed:** In **1954**, the Supreme Court overturned the ruling from Plessy v. Ferguson and mandated that schools integrate “with all deliberate speed”. | **Freedom Summer**: Thousands of civil rights activists (many white college students from the North) descended into the southern US to help register African Americans to vote in the **summer of 1964**. They were combating racist practices that disenfranchised black voters, including poll taxes, literacy tests and fear and intimidation. Three of the workers were murdered in Mississippi. |
| **Emmett Till:** A 14 year old boy was brutally murdered in Mississippi in **August of 1955** after reportedly “flirting” with a white woman. The acquittal of his murderers helped spark the Civil Right Movement that would follow. | **Civil Rights Act:** Signed into law on **July 2, 1964** by President Johnson, this piece of legislation outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also ended segregation of schools, workplaces and public facilities. |
| **Rosa Parks Arrested:** On **December 1, 1955**, a woman who refused to give up her seat to a white man was arrested, jailed and fined for not complying with a local ordinance. | **Malcolm X:** A Civil Rights leader was shot to death by rival Black Muslims while speaking at a rally in New York on **February 21, 1965**. His belief that rights for African Americans should be achieved “by any means necessary” conflicted with Martin Luther King’s nonviolent and integrationist methods. |
| **Montgomery Bus Boycott:** Following the arrest of Rosa Parks, black people and their supporters joined together and refused to ride buses in a major city in Alabama. Starting on **Dec. 5, 1955**, it was originally meant to last only a few days or weeks. However, it went on for 13 months, when a Supreme Court decision declared segregated busing unconstitutional. | **Voting Rights Act**: Signed on **August 6, 1965**, this piece of legislation was designed to enforce rights protected by the 14th and 15th Amendments. It outlawed southern practices that discriminated against minorities, including poll taxes and literacy tests and mandated bilingual ballots for areas with significant non-English speaking minority populations. |
| **SCLC:** Spurred by the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was founded in **January of 1957**. It was led by Martin Luther King, Jr and promoted social change through nonviolent resistance. | **Loving v. Virginia**: In **1967**, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of an interracial couple who had sued the state of Virginia. The couple had been sentenced to a year in prison for marrying each other and appealed their conviction. The Supreme Court’s decision declared state laws that prohibited interracial marriage unconstitutional. |
| **Little Rock 9:** Nine students attended a newly integrated high school in Arkansas on **Sept. 25, 1957** to a crowd of hostile segregationists hurling insults and racial slurs. Pres. Eisenhower ordered a military escort for the students and the military presence remained for the duration of the school year. | **MLK, Jr. Assassinated**: A key leader of Civil Rights Movement was shot while leaving his motel in Memphis, TN on **April 4, 1968**. America mourned the tremendous loss, some calling for a nonviolent protest to his death, others saying that now was a time for more drastic action. |

**Steps Backward**

**Steps Forward**

**Steps Forward & Backward**