**Aim: How did the Civil Rights Movement start?**

**Topic: Start of the Civil Rights Movement (1945-1950’s)**

**Historical Circumstances:**

After 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were passed in 1865 which ended slavery and made it illegal to deny minorities civil rights, Southern States created State Laws known as “Black Codes” to create segregation – keeping blacks and whites separate (this was done for transportation, schools, restrooms and even water fountains). In 1896, a man named Homer Adolph Plessy took a seat in a “whites only car” in a Louisiana train. When Fergusson, the train conductor told him to move he refused to go to the car reserved for blacks and was arrested. Plessy took Ferguson to court in the case ***Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)***. The Supreme Court said that the state law was constitutional and declared segregation (separation of races) legal. The Supreme Court stated that this was legal as long as it was **“separate but equal.”** This meant that it was okay to keep blacks and whites separate as long as both groups are given equal facilities. This segregation lasted into the middle of the 1950’s, until the case of ***Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*** went to the Supreme Court.

**Task: Complete the Graphic Organizer using the first episode of “Eyes on the Prize”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpY2NVcO17U>

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| **Event** | How did this event impact the Civil Rights Movement |
| World War II |  |
| Jackie Robinson |  |
| Emmitt Till |  |
| Brown v. Board of Education |  |