

World Black History

# Independence *and* Equality



1940 to 1968

## ***Brown v. Board of Education***

During the 1940s and 1950s, thousands of people joined the NAACP to fight for equal rights. In 1951 some African Americans tried to enroll their children in all-white schools in Topeka, USA, but were stopped by city leaders. NAACP lawyers took their case, called *Brown v. Board of Education*, before the United States **Supreme Court** and won. The court said that every school must allow black and white children to go to school together.

Many white leaders in the southern states refused to obey this new law. Despite the court decisions, they kept their schools segregated.

### *Thurgood Marshall*

Thurgood Marshall was a black NAACP lawyer. He was the man who won the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Marshall also helped win rights for all Americans to live in any neighbourhood they wished, to sit where they wanted on buses, and to vote freely. In 1967 President Lyndon Johnson appointed Marshall the first African American to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court.

Black children in Topeka were segregated into separate schools, leading the NAACP to sue the school district.

