

0. Sit-in Movement - 1960 - Story Preface

1. President Harry S Truman desegregates the armed forces - 1948

2. Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, KS - 1954

3. Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955

4. The Little Rock Nine - 1957

5. The Freedom Rides - 1961

6. Sit-in Movement - 1960

7. March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom - 1963

8. The Civil Rights Act of 1964

9. Selma March for Voting Rights - 1965

10. Voting Rights Act of 1965



Segregated eating facilities can be traced back to the racial etiquette developed after the *Plessy* case. Blacks could shop in stores with lunch counters--albeit they could not try on clothes there--and often worked in these facilities, but they were not welcome at the eating spaces in stores such as Woolworth's. If they wanted to order carryout, they had to do so by going to the back door.

On February 1st four college students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, North Carolina--Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair, Jr., Joseph McNeil and Dave Richmond--challenged this odious practice by sitting down at the lunch counter in the local Woolworth's, and asking to be served. They were, of course, denied service. They continued their protest and were soon joined by hundreds of other students in every state but Mississippi. The students were harassed, physically assaulted and some times arrested, but the protests continued.

Five months later the Greensboro Woolworth's desegregated its lunch counter. Even so, it was five years later before the company desegregated all of its lunch counters. Today part of the counter is in the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Sit-in-Movement-1960-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Sit-in-Movement-1960-The-Big-Ten-Crucial-Events-in-the-Modern-Civil-Rights-Movement>

Questions 2 Ponder

How Did Violence Arise from Non-Violent Protest?

How did a non-violent activity—such as the "Greensboro Four" participating in a sit-in at the Woolworth's Store in Greensboro, North Carolina—precipitate violence?

Media Stream



Greensboro Four - Woolworth Lunch Counter

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