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Grade level

* 4th Grade

Standard

* **VS.9c**: identifying the social and political events in Virginia linked to desegregation and Massive Resistance and their relationship to national history.

Essential Question

* What changes occurred in Virginia as a result of the Civil Rights Movement?

Essential Knowledge

* **Terms to know:**

Segregation: The separation of people, usually based on race or religion.

Desegregation: Abolishment of racial segregation.

Integration: Full equality of people of all races in the use of public facilities and services.

* **Desegregation and Massive Resistance in Virginia**

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 (Brown v. Board of Education) that “separate but equal” public schools were unconstitutional. All public schools, including those in Virginia, were ordered to desegregate.

Virginia’s government established a policy of Massive Resistance, which fought to “resist” the integration of public schools. Some schools were closed to avoid integration. The policy of Massive Resistance failed, and Virginia’s public schools were finally integrated. Harry F. Byrd, Sr., led the Massive Resistance Movement against the desegregation of public schools.

Essential Skill

* VS.1f: Sequence events in Virginia history.

Advance Preparation for the Lesson

* See attached outline
* Materials needed:
  + PowerPoint
  + Blank outline for note taking
  + Markers
  + Posters
  + Glue
  + Scissors
  + Vocabulary matching game worksheet (see attached)
  + Moton Museum permission slip

Opening/Introduction

* We will have just finished up learning about WWII and starting the Civil Rights Movement. We will open class with a brainstorm activity “What do you think Civil Rights means? What do you think the word “Massive Resistance” means? Then we will break down the words for them and begin our lesson.

Demonstration/Modeling and/or Guided Practice

* The students will have a blank timeline with dates only, during a PowerPoint presentation we will go over important events in Virginia and they will need to put them in order, at the end they will be put into small groups to create a timeline poster.

Closing

* The students will have a matching vocabulary sheet to do, and we will be handing out permission slips for our field trip to the Moton Museum. We would make the trip kid friendly so that they can learn and grasp the concept of what took place at Moton.

Bibliography

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Historic Background

* Knowledge of what took place in Prince Edward County and Robert Russa Moton School so that we can talk about that.
* A sequence of events that happened in Virginia.
* Time Line taken from encyclopediavirginia.org:[[1]](#footnote-1)
* April 23, 1951 - Under the leadership of Barbara Johns, fellow students at the all-black Robert Russa Moton High School in the town of Farmville in Prince Edward County walk out of their school to protest the unequal conditions of their education as compared to those of the white students in nearby Farmville High School.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* May 17, 1954 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, that segregation in schools is unconstitutional, but fails to explain how quickly and in what manner desegregation is to be achieved. The decision leads to the Massive Resistance movement in Virginia.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* May 31, 1955 - The U.S. Supreme Court issues a vague ruling outlining the implementation of desegregation to occur "with all deliberate speed," a ruling now commonly known as Brown II.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* November 1955 - Virginia state senator Garland Gray introduces the Gray Plan, which proposes the selective repeal of the compulsory school attendance law in an effort to slow desegregation in Virginia.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* February 25, 1956 - U.S. senator Harry F. Byrd calls for a strategy of "Massive Resistance" to oppose the integration of public schools in Virginia.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* March 1956 - U.S. senator Harry F. Byrd helps to author the "Southern Manifesto," which calls for opposition to the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision.[[7]](#footnote-7)
* August 27, 1956 - Virginia governor Thomas B. Stanley announces a package of Massive Resistance legislation that will become known as the Stanley Plan. Among other things, the plan gives the governor the power to close any schools facing a federal desegregation order.[[8]](#footnote-8)
* November 5, 1957 - J. Lindsay Almond Jr. is elected governor of Virginia thanks to a platform that promises a continuation of Massive Resistance.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* September 4, 1958 - Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. divests superintendents of Virginia schools of their authority to desegregate their schools; he also advises that if they go against his order they will be found in violation of Virginia laws.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* September 15, 1958 - Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. closes Warren County High School, the first school held in violation of his statewide mandate against desegregation.[[11]](#footnote-11)
* September 19, 1958 - Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. closes Lane High School and Venable Elementary School in Charlottesville to prevent desegregation.[[12]](#footnote-12)
* September 27, 1958 - Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. orders white secondary schools in Norfolk to close to prevent desegregation.[[13]](#footnote-13)
* January 19, 1959 - Both the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court overturn the decision of Virginia governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr. to close schools in Front Royal, Charlottesville, and Norfolk.[[14]](#footnote-14)
* February 2, 1959 - With Governor J. Lindsay Almond Jr.'s barrier to desegregation broken by Virginia's Supreme Court of Appeals, seventeen black students in Norfolk and four in Arlington County peacefully enroll in white schools.[[15]](#footnote-15)
* The desegregation of the public schools in Virginia began on February 2, 1959, and continued through early in the 1970s when the state government's attempts to resist desegregation ended.[[16]](#footnote-16)
* September 1959 - Though Massive Resistance has already ended, the Prince Edward County School Board closes its public schools to resist desegregation.[[17]](#footnote-17)
* May 25, 1964 - After Prince Edward County's public schools have been closed for the previous five years, the U.S. Supreme Court in Griffin v. School Board of Prince Edward County rules that the county has violated the students' right to an education and orders the Prince Edward County schools to reopen.[[18]](#footnote-18)
* May 27, 1968 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Charles C. Green et al. v. County School Board of New Kent County, Virginia that the New Kent School Board has to “convert promptly to a [school] system without a ‘white’ school, and a ‘Negro’ school, but just schools.” The ruling quickens the pace of desegregation in Virginia.[[19]](#footnote-19)
* Biography of Barbara Johns
* Barbara Johns was a 16 year-old Robert Russa Moton High School student who led her fellow students in a strike to protest unequal school conditions at Robert Russa Moton Museum on April 23, 1951.[[20]](#footnote-20)
* Since we will teach about Prince Edward, more useful information below:

The Closing of Prince Edward County's Schools

-After Virginia's school-closing law was ruled unconstitutional in January 1959, the General Assembly repealed the compulsory school attendance law and made the operation of public schools a local option for the state's counties and cities. Schools that had been closed in Front Royal, Norfolk, and Charlottesville reopened because citizens there preferred integrated schools to none at all. It was not so Prince Edward County. Ordered on May 1, 1959, to integrate its schools, the county instead closed its entire public school system.[[21]](#footnote-21)

-The Prince Edward Foundation created a series of private schools to educate the county's white children. These schools were maintained by tuition grants from the state and tax credits from the county. Prince Edward Academy became the model for all-white private schools designed to protest school integration.[[22]](#footnote-22)

-No provision was made for educating the county's black children. Some got schooling with relatives in nearby communities or at makeshift schools in church basements. Others were educated out of state by groups such as the Society of Friends. In 1963–64, the Prince Edward Free School picked up some of the slack. But some pupils missed part or all of their education for five years.[[23]](#footnote-23)

-Edward R. Murrow, the famous radio and television journalist, presented the program "The Lost Class of '59" on the CBS television network. It caused national indignation. Nonetheless, not until 1964, when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed Virginia's tuition grants to private education, did Prince Edward County reopen its schools, on an integrated basis. This event marked the real end of Massive Resistance.[[24]](#footnote-24)

* As a teacher we must know all there is to know about Virginia history and to have all of our facts right before teaching a Virginia history lesson.

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| segregation | The separation of people, usually based on race or religion. |
| desegregation | Abolishment of racial segregation. |
| integration | Full equality of people of all races in the use of public facilities and services. |
| “separate but equal” | The idea that people of different races would remain segregated, but have equal rights. |
| prejudice | An unfair feeling of dislike for a person because of their race, sex, or religion. |
| civil rights | The individual right of all citizens to be treated equally under the law. |
| discrimination | Unfair treatment of people because of such things as their race, religion, or gender. |
| Massive Resistance | A Virginia policy that fought to “resist” the integration of public schools. |
| Harry F. Byrd, Sr. | Led the Massive Resistance Movement against the desegregation of public schools. |
| Civil Rights Movement | In the United States during the 1950s and the 1960s, people organized to demand that the federal government protect rights of African Americans and other minorities. |

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