



Thurgood Marshall: Student Exercises

Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

Read the abridged article by [*Leon Friedman: Brown v. Board of Education*](#)

1. What has happened to integration of schools since the famous Brown decision removing legal segregation of schools?

By the 1990s segregation has returned to almost all elementary and secondary schools in the US. Most urban public schools are 84-90% minority students, and many white students have fled to private schools.

2. Why is the Brown decision so important?

Education affected the largest number of Black population; poor education denies Blacks any political power; poor education denies possibility of rising above poverty.

3. Why did some feel that segregated education at the elementary level was all right?

Some felt that parents should decide these issues for their children.

4. What was Mr. Marshall's central argument against segregation?

If one believes that Blacks need separate schools, then one must believe that Blacks are inferior.

5. What was the final ruling in Brown v Board of Education, and who wrote the opinion?

Chief Justice Earl Warren: "...in the field of public education the doctrines of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."