

## March on Washington Glossary

Vocabulary Word	Definition
integration	the act of bringing about equal membership in society
interposition	the action of a state whereby its power is placed between its citizens and the federal government
intimidation	the act of making fearful or deterring by threat
Jim Crow Laws	the systematic practice of discriminating against and segregating Black people, especially as practiced in the American South from the end of Reconstruction to the mid-20th century. Some examples of Jim Crow laws are the segregation of public schools, public places, and public transportation, and the segregation of restrooms, restaurants, and drinking fountains for whites and blacks. The U.S. military was also segregated.
Ku Klux Klan	a secret society begun after the Civil War that advocates white supremacy; a hate group
lawsuit	a suit in law : a case before a court
legacy	something (as ideals and examples) left by an ancestor or predecessor
literacy test	difficult tests that measured the ability to read and the knowledge of government
mentor	a trusted counselor or guide
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)	an organization that was begun in 1909 and was one of the main organizations in the 1940s working to overturn segregation laws; works through courts to fight inequality
negotiate	to bring about through conference, discussion, and compromise
nonviolent civil disobedience	the act of protesting laws while not hurting other people or destroying property
nonviolent direct action	doing something to bring examples of injustice to the attention of others
nonviolent resistance	the act of peacefully exerting oneself to counteract something
open housing	a principle in which people may live in whichever neighborhood they can afford regardless of their race
oppression	unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power
orator	a skilled speaker
ordinance	laws set forth by a government authority
philosophy	the study of ideas and beliefs
picket	to walk or stand in front of; to protest

<b>Vocabulary Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
13th Amendment	the Constitutional Amendment that abolished slavery 1864
14th Amendment	the Constitutional Amendment that guaranteed citizenship rights and equal protection of the laws to all (now including African Americans) 1868
15th Amendment	the Constitutional Amendment that prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous 1870 condition of servitude
Affirmative Action	Known as positive discrimination; policies that take factors including "race, color, religion, sex, or national origin" into consideration in order to benefit an underrepresented group "in areas of employment, education, and business"
boycott	the act of refusing to deal with someone to show disapproval
civil rights	the rights of personal liberty as guaranteed to citizens by the Constitution
desegregate	to free of any law or practice requiring isolation of a race
Deep South	a descriptive category of the cultural and geographic subregions in the American South which typically includes Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.
discrimination	the act of treating some people differently from others on a basis other than individual merit
federalize	to place under the authority of the federal government
freedom ride	on of many activities on which people from many backgrounds rode buses throughout the South to test the integration of interstate buses and terminals
full employment	the state at which everyone who is able to work has a job
ghetto	a part of a city in which members of a minority group live because of social or legal pressure
harass	to worry and annoy repeatedly
hate mail	letters full of threats and ridicule
indict	to charge with a crime
injustice	the absence of justice; violation of the rights of another

Vocabulary Word	Definition
poll tax	a tax or fixed amount per person levied on adults before they can vote
prayer vigil	a time of keeping watch and praying
retaliate	to repay in kind
segregation	the act of keeping people of different race apart
sit-in	an example of nonviolent direct action or civil disobedience where people refuse to leave a restaurant or other establishment until their demands are met
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)	an organization created in 1957 by southern black leaders to work for equality among races
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)	an organization established by students in the late 1950's to coordinate student protests and sponsor voter registration drives
tyranny	oppressive power
unconstitutional	in violation of the constitution
universal human kinship	the state at which all people are free and live in peace and harmony
White Citizens' Council	a group of white persons who organized to preserve segregation during the Montgomery bus boycott

References:

"Martin Luther King, Jr.: His Life and Dream" by Christine King Farris

Wikipedia

<http://www.merriam-webster.com>