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# Weekly Test Lesson 13

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

## Linda Brown and the Little Rock Nine

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States says that everyone is equal under the laws of the country. Still, people were once segregated. Many communities had what became known as “separate but equal” rules. For example, African American students could not go to the same schools as white students.

Throughout the 1950s, the fight for students to have equal education became front and center in the battle for equal rights.

### Linda Brown

In the early 1950s, Linda Brown of Topeka, Kansas, wanted to go to school with other children in her neighborhood. Instead, she had to walk a mile through a railroad yard to a bus stop. Then she would ride the bus two miles to a different school.

Why did Linda have to travel so far to go to school? She traveled that far because she was African American. At that time, some states had separate schools for African Americans. They were segregated. Linda Brown’s family and 12 other African American families decided to fight against the laws that allowed this segregation of schools. The families first went to the all-white schools near their homes. They tried to enroll their children.

Linda Brown said later, “Well, like I say, we lived in an integrated neighborhood, and I had all of these playmates of different nationalities. And so when I found out that day that I might be able to go to their school, I was just thrilled, you know.

“And I remember walking over to Sumner School with my dad that day and going up the steps of the school, and the school looked so big to a smaller child. And I remember going inside, and my dad spoke with someone, and then he went into the inner office with the principal, and they left me . . . to sit outside with the secretary.

“And while he was in the inner office, I could hear voices and hear his voice raised, you know, as the conversation went on. And then he immediately came out of the office, took me by the hand, and we walked home from the school. I just couldn’t understand what was happening because I was so sure that I was going to go to school with . . . all of my playmates.”

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## Reading

The families were not allowed to enroll. They were sent to the all-black schools. Then a lawsuit was filed. In 1951, an organization called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) agreed to help. One of its lawyers, Thurgood Marshall, presented the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case became known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Marshall argued that separate schools did not provide an equal education.

In 1954, all nine justices of the Supreme Court ruled the same way. They decided that having separate schools for white and African American children was against the law. They thought that children who were treated differently would not do as well in school. A new revolution had begun—equality in education.

The case was a giant step toward equal education for all children. However, the court did not set a time for all schools to be integrated, or combined. It took many years and many court battles for total integration. It was a long road for everyone involved.

### The Little Rock Nine

Even though the Supreme Court had ruled that schools should be integrated, many people still did not want people of a different race to use the same things they used. They fought against integration. In some places, schools were closed so that African American students could not attend them. Sometimes, the federal government stepped in to make sure that people were treated equally.

In 1957, nine African American students tried to enter Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. The state's governor sent the Arkansas National Guard to stop them, but the students knew they could not retreat. The president of the United States sent soldiers to go with the students into the school and to protect their right to attend.

These students became known as the Little Rock Nine. They helped lead the way for the integration of public schools in Little Rock. In May 1958, Ernest Green became the first African American to graduate from Central High. Today, the school is a national historic site and serves as a reminder of the struggle for equality that happened there.

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## Reading

- 1 Read these sentences from the text.

At that time, some states had separate schools for African Americans. They were segregated.

What does the word segregated **most likely** mean?

- (A) kept equal
- (B) kept apart
- (C) allowable
- (D) educated

- 2 Read the sentence from the text.

Linda Brown said later, “Well, like I say, we lived in an integrated neighborhood, and I had all of these playmates of different nationalities.”

What does the word integrated mean as it is used in the text?

- (A) living together in harmony
- (B) playing in a typical way
- (C) becoming wealthy
- (D) being crowded

- 3 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Which conclusion is supported by the section titled “Linda Brown”?

- (A) The Supreme Court wasn’t convincing in its decision.
- (B) The Browns weren’t expecting to keep battling in court.
- (C) The Browns helped shape the future of education for everyone.
- (D) The Supreme Court does not make decisions that affect national laws.

**Part B**

Underline the sentence that **best** supports the answer to part A.

The case was a giant step toward equal education for all children. However, the court did not set a time for all schools to be integrated, or combined. It took many years and many court battles for total integration. It was a long road for everyone involved.

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4 Mark the boxes to show the year each event took place.

	The Supreme Court decides schools should be integrated.	African American students try to enter Central High School.	The NAACP agrees to help the Brown family fight for integrated schools.
1951			
1954			
1957			

5 Read the thesaurus entry.

**site** *noun* ground, home, location, spot, station, plot, point, scene, situation

Now read the sentence from the text.

Today, the school is a national historic site and serves as a reminder of the struggle for equality that happened there.

Which word from the thesaurus entry is the **best** replacement for the word site as it is used in the text?

- (A) situation
- (B) location
- (C) home
- (D) plot

6 Why does the author present the information in time order? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

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## Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) Oliver Twist is a famous orphan in literature.
  - (B) Her mother loves to complain about the weather.
  - (C) My dog took the bone from the table like a burglar.
  - (D) The merchant at the farmers' market sells honey and eggs.
- 8 Which sentence is written incorrectly?
- (A) We foughted over who went first at the game.
  - (B) We biked to the mountaintop yesterday.
  - (C) We gave the award to the best player.
  - (D) We camped out overnight last week.
- 9 Which sentence is written incorrectly?
- (A) They also made sandwiches together.
  - (B) They brang a picnic lunch to the park.
  - (C) In their lunch, they found apples and grapes.
  - (D) To complete the picnic, they laid out a blanket.
- 10 Read the following sentences. Underline **three** words that have errors in grammar usage.

Felicia was delighted with her new dog. She named him Fletcher. Felicia planned to teach Fletcher many tricks. The first trick she teached him was to roll over. Next, she wondered if he would learn to catch a ball. Sure enough! He caught the first ball she throwed for him. What a great dog!