Bright Path Sped



My name _____ Date _____

Reading 1: The Short Read

Read the story. Then write the main idea.

1908 to 1993

Thurgood Marshall was a lawyer and a judge who worked for equal rights under the law. He was born on July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated from Lincoln University in 1930 and from Howard University School of Law in 1933. In 1940, he became the chief lawyer of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Marshall argued cases before the Supreme Court. One of them was Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, which the Court decided on May 17, 1954. The Court ruled that public schools separated by race were unconstitutional. In 1961, Marshall became a judge on a U.S. court of appeals. In 1967, he became the first Black justice of the Supreme Court. He retired in 1991 and died on January 24, 1993.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Where was Thurgood Marshall born?
   - A Topeka, Kansas
   - B Baltimore, Maryland
   - C Washington, D.C.

2. What did the Supreme Court decide on May 17, 1954?
   - A Public schools separated by race were unconstitutional
   - B Marshall would become a judge
   - C Law schools must close

3. What did Marshall become in 1967?
   - A A newspaper writer
   - B A teacher at Howard University
   - C The first Black justice of the Supreme Court

Thurgood Marshall - Reading 1: The Short Read

23 STUDENT PAGES



THURGOOD MARSHALL

BIOGRAPHY AND READING
GRADES 6-8

Terms of Use

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Not affiliated

This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by Thurgood Marshall, his family or estate, the Supreme Court of the United States or the NAACP. It is an original set of readings and activities written for this file.

Using the answer keys

The answer keys are at the back, after the student pages. Pull them out before you copy the student pages for the class, and keep them with your lesson plans.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter or a number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the main idea and why-it-mattered boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, lawyer or justice: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with the dates at the top, a main idea box, a why-it-mattered box (Reading 2) and the checks.
- **The compare and five Ws pages.** Page 15 sorts six facts by job; page 16 answers who, what, when, where and why about Brown.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: one cut across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Check, Before You Read, Words to Know	3 pages, 17 items	A five-question check for before and after; true or false on the big picture; match eight words to their meanings.
Reading 1 and Reading 2 (A to C)	9 checks	Read, write the main idea (and why it mattered), answer the checks with a letter.
Fact file, timeline, cause and effect	3 pages, 14 items	Fill the fact file from a bank; write the date for each event; write what happened next for 4 causes.
Compare, five Ws	2 pages, 6 items	Check Lawyer, Both or Justice for 6 facts; answer 5 questions about Brown v. Board of Education.
Draw his story, Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	4 panels, 6 questions	Draw 4 panels; 4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste, Exit Tickets	12 items, 18 pieces, 4 tickets	A quiz in two parts, three cut-and-paste mats (times, jobs, put in order) and four exit tickets.

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 28 to 32.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary in plain words. It is not a complete biography, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own library book or article for more depth.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

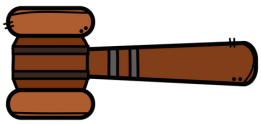
The fact file, timeline and compare pages have one right answer each. The cause and effect page, the five Ws page, the draw page, short answers, the exit tickets and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Before and After Check



Write a letter in the Before box now and the After box when you finish.

Write the letter of the best answer. Guess if you are not sure. Fill in **Before** now, and **After** when you finish the unit.

1. What kind of work is Thurgood Marshall known for?
   - **A** Flying planes
   - **B** Law and the courts
   - **C** Building bridges

   Before ☐ After ☐

2. In which year did the Supreme Court decide Brown v. Board of Education?
   - **A** 1954
   - **B** 1896
   - **C** 1991

   Before ☐ After ☐

3. Which court did Marshall join in 1967?
   - **A** A city court
   - **B** The Supreme Court
   - **C** A school board

   Before ☐ After ☐

4. What city was Marshall born in?
   - **A** Baltimore
   - **B** Topeka
   - **C** Houston

   Before ☐ After ☐

5. In what year did Thurgood Marshall die?
   - **A** 1954
   - **B** 1993
   - **C** 2015

   Before ☐ After ☐

One thing I already know about Thurgood Marshall is...

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Words to Know



Write the letter of each meaning.

1	unconstitutional		A	keeping people apart by race, in places such as schools
2	justice		B	a person who gives legal help and speaks for others in court
3	opinion		C	the written explanation of a court's decision
4	lawyer		D	a member of the Supreme Court
5	civil rights		E	the rights of every person to be treated fairly under the law
6	segregation		F	a place where judges and lawyers decide cases
7	unanimous		G	not allowed by the Constitution, the nation's highest law
8	court		H	with every person agreeing

Use two of the words in one sentence about Thurgood Marshall.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Reading 2A: Growing Up and Law School



Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

1908 to 1935

Thurgood Marshall was born on July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland. In those years, many states had laws that kept Black and white people apart in places such as schools. This kept-apart system is called segregation. Marshall went to Lincoln University and graduated in 1930. He wanted to become a lawyer, and a lawyer is a person who gives legal help and speaks for others in court. He applied to the law school at the University of Maryland, but the school did not accept Black students. Instead, he studied at Howard University School of Law and graduated in 1933. His teacher at Howard, Charles Hamilton Houston, was a lawyer who worked for equal rights, and the two later argued cases together. In 1935, a Maryland court ordered the University of Maryland law school to admit Donald Murray, a Black student, in a case that Marshall and Houston argued.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to his story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. In what year did Marshall graduate from Howard University School of Law?
   - **A** 1930
   - **B** 1933
   - **C** 1954

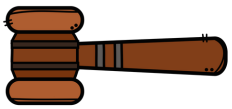
2. Why did Marshall study at Howard instead of the University of Maryland?
   - **A** The Maryland law school did not accept Black students
   - **B** He wanted to study music
   - **C** Howard was the only law school in the country

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Reading 2C: Brown and the Court



Read the story. Then write the main idea and why it mattered.

1954 to 1993

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court announced its decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. All nine justices agreed, so the decision was unanimous. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion, which is the Court's written explanation of its decision. The Court ruled that public schools separated by race were unconstitutional. Unconstitutional means not allowed by the Constitution, the nation's highest law. The decision did not change every school right away, and in many places change took years. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy named Marshall a judge on a U.S. court of appeals. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson named him Solicitor General, the lawyer who speaks for the U.S. government before the Supreme Court. In 1967, Marshall became a justice of the Supreme Court, the first Black person to hold that job. He retired in 1991 and died on January 24, 1993.

Main idea: What is this reading mostly about?

Why it mattered: Why is this important to his story?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

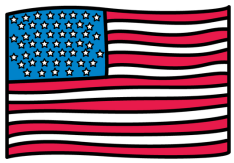
1. Which justice wrote the opinion in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka?
   - **A** Earl Warren
   - **B** Thurgood Marshall
   - **C** Lyndon B. Johnson

2. What happened to schools right after the decision?
   - **A** Change came to every school at once
   - **B** In many places, change took years
   - **C** The Court closed all public schools

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____



Timeline: Dates

Write the date for each event.

1961	1908	1991	May 1954	1967	1933

Pick each date from the bank. Use the readings to help you.

1. Supreme Court Justice _____
2. Born in Baltimore _____
3. Retires _____
4. Brown v. Board _____
5. Finishes Law School _____
6. Appeals Court Judge _____

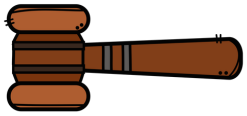
Which event happened because of an earlier one? Explain.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____

Lawyer, Justice or Both



Read each one. Check Lawyer, Both or Justice.

Marshall worked as a lawyer first, and later he was a justice. Check **Lawyer** or **Justice** if a sentence fits only one job. Check **Both** if it fits both jobs.

	Lawyer	Both	Justice
1 Argued cases for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.	☐	☐	☐
2 Was named to the Court by President Lyndon B. Johnson.	☐	☐	☐
3 Worked with the law and the courts.	☐	☐	☐
4 Was one of nine members of the Supreme Court.	☐	☐	☐
5 Stood before the Supreme Court to argue for the people he spoke for.	☐	☐	☐
6 Worked on cases that reached the Supreme Court.	☐	☐	☐

Write one more fact about his work as a lawyer or as a justice.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through A

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

1. Who was Thurgood Marshall, and what kind of work did he do?

2. What did the Supreme Court decide in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka?

3. Why did Marshall study at Howard University School of Law instead of the University of Maryland?

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning



Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Why was Brown v. Board of Education an important step in Marshall's story?
Use facts from the readings, pages 8 to 11.

Brown was an important step because ____. For example, ____. This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Why was Brown an important step?

Evidence: Give two facts from the readings.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part A

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

1. In which state was Thurgood Marshall born?
   - A Maryland
   - B Kansas
   - C Texas

2. Which school did he graduate from in 1933?
   - A The Supreme Court
   - B Howard University School of Law
   - C A city high school

3. Marshall was the chief lawyer of which group beginning in 1940?
   - A A bank
   - B The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund
   - C A newspaper

4. Which of these happened first?
   - A Brown v. Board was decided.
   - B Marshall graduated from law school.
   - C Marshall became a justice.

5. What does a lawyer do?
   - A Builds roads
   - B Gives legal help and speaks for others in court
   - C Grows food

6. The Court's written explanation of its decision is called the...
   - A timeline
   - B opinion
   - C vocabulary

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 1

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one under the right time.

Paste each piece under the time it belongs to. The pieces are facts from Thurgood Marshall's story.

Before 1954	
In 1954	
After 1954	

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, one cut across and two down.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1908.	Became the first Black justice of the Supreme Court in 1967.	The Supreme Court decided Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.
Finished law school at Howard University in 1933.	Became a judge on a U.S. court of appeals in 1961.	All nine justices agreed that schools separated by race were unconstitutional.

Which piece was easiest to place? Why?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 3

Cut out the six pieces. Paste them in order.

Paste the events in order, first to last. The timeline page (13) can help.

First	Second	Third

Fourth	Fifth	Sixth

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, one cut across and two down.

The Supreme Court decides Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.	Thurgood Marshall is born in Baltimore, Maryland.	He retires from the Supreme Court.
He graduates from Howard University School of Law.	He becomes the first Black justice of the Supreme Court.	President Kennedy names him a judge on a U.S. court of appeals.

Which event do you think took the most work to prepare for? Why?

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Timeline, Quiz, Sorts

The timeline page, the quiz and the three cut-and-paste mats.

Timeline: Dates page 13

#	Event	Date
1	Supreme Court Justice	1967
2	Born in Baltimore	1908
3	Retires	1991
4	Brown v. Board	May 1954
5	Finishes Law School	1933
6	Appeals Court Judge	1961

Quiz pages 22, 23

#	Starts with	Answer
1	In which state was Thurgood …	A: Maryland
2	Which school did he graduate …	B: Howard University School of Law
3	Marshall was the chief lawyer …	B: The NAACP Legal Defense and …
4	Which of these happened first?	B: Marshall graduated from law school.
5	What does a lawyer do?	B: Gives legal help and speaks …
6	The Court's written explanation of …	B: opinion
7	Which court decided Brown v. …	A: The Supreme Court
8	When was the Brown decision …	B: May 17, 1954
9	What does unanimous mean?	A: Everyone agrees
10	Who named Marshall a judge …	B: President John F. Kennedy
11	What was Marshall's job as …	A: Speaking for the U.S. government …
12	In what year did Thurgood …	C: 1991

Cut and Paste 1 page 24

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Born in Baltimore, Maryland, in …	Before 1954
r1 c2: Became the first Black justice …	After 1954
r1 c3: The Supreme Court decided Brown …	In 1954
r2 c1: Finished law school at Howard …	Before 1954
r2 c2: Became a judge on a …	After 1954
r2 c3: All nine justices agreed that …	In 1954

Cut and Paste 2 page 25

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Served on a U.S. court …	Judge and Solicitor General
r1 c2: Argued Brown v. Board of …	Lawyer
r1 c3: Was the first Black person …	Justice
r2 c1: Led the NAACP Legal Defense …	Lawyer
r2 c2: Retired from the Supreme Court …	Justice
r2 c3: Spoke for the U.S. government …	Judge and Solicitor General

Cut and Paste 3 page 26

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: The Supreme Court decides Brown …	Third
r1 c2: Thurgood Marshall is born in …	First
r1 c3: He retires from the Supreme …	Sixth
r2 c1: He graduates from Howard University …	Second
r2 c2: He becomes the first Black …	Fifth
r2 c3: President Kennedy names him a …	Fourth

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. On Cut and Paste 3 the boxes are first to sixth, so the box is the event's place in time. Cut and Paste 2 sorts by the job Marshall held when it happened.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Compare and Five Ws

Pages 15 and 16. The compare page has one right box for each fact; the five Ws page takes any answer that is true to the readings.

Lawyer, Justice or Both page 15

#	Starts with	Check this box
1	Argued cases for the NAACP Legal Defense and …	Lawyer
2	Was named to the Court by President Lyndon …	Justice
3	Worked with the law and the courts.	Both
4	Was one of nine members of the Supreme …	Justice
5	Stood before the Supreme Court to argue for …	Lawyer
6	Worked on cases that reached the Supreme Court.	Both

Brown: The Five Ws page 16

Question	A good answer says
Who	Marshall and the other lawyers argued for the families; the nine justices of the Supreme Court decided the case.
What	Public schools separated by race were unconstitutional.
When	May 17, 1954.
Where	At the Supreme Court. The case is named for Topeka.
Why	They argued that separate schools for Black students and white students were not equal.

How the answers work

- **Compare page:** a sentence about arguing for clients goes with the lawyer; a sentence about being one of nine members or about the president who named him goes with the justice. A sentence that fits both jobs, such as working with the law or working on cases that reached the Supreme Court, goes in Both.
- **Five Ws:** the answers come only from the readings: Marshall and the other lawyers argued for the families, and the nine justices decided the case. Accept any wording that gives the same fact. Where the case ended up is the Supreme Court; accept a mention of Topeka, the place in the case's name, too.

PREVIEW

Thurgood Marshall Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 37.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before and After Check	5			
6	Before You Read	4			
7	Words to Know	8			
8	Reading 1: The Short Read	3			
9	Reading 2A: Growing Up and Law School	2			
10	Reading 2B: Lawyer for Equal Schools	2			
11	Reading 2C: Brown and the Court	2			
12	Fact File	8			
13	Timeline: Dates	6			
15	Lawyer, Justice or Both	6			
22	Quiz, Part A	6			
23	Quiz, Part B	6			
24	Cut and Paste 1	6			
25	Cut and Paste 2	6			
26	Cut and Paste 3	6			

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 76 items on the 15 scored pages. Answer keys: pages 28 to 32. Filled example: page 37.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

PREVIEW

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before and After Check			
Readings			
Words and Fact File			
Timeline			
Compare			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the main idea of ___ of ___ readings without a prompt.
- Put the events in order on ___ of ___ (page 26).
- Checked the right box on ___ of ___ facts on the compare page (page 15): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (20, 21): yes / no / with a reminder.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/3. Next step: use opinion and unanimous in sentences about Brown v. Board of Education." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 37.

PREVIEW

Jordan's Tracker (Invented Student)

Jordan L. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 33.

Student: Jordan L. (an invented student)

Teacher: Ms. Ellis (invented)

Month: September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before and After Check	5	3	9/22	Guessed the first answer
6	Before You Read	4	4	9/23	-
7	Words to Know	8	6	10/3	Mixed up opinion and unanimous
8	Reading 1: The Short Read	3	3	9/24	-
9	Reading 2A: Growing Up and Law School	2	2	9/25	-
10	Reading 2B: Lawyer for Equal Schools	2	1	9/29	Mixed up the NAACP and the Court
11	Reading 2C: Brown and the Court	2	2	10/1	-
12	Fact File	8	-	-	-
13	Timeline: Dates	6	-	-	-
15	Lawyer, Justice or Both	6	5	10/6	Checked Both for a lawyer-only fact
22	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
23	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
24	Cut and Paste 1	6	-	-	-
25	Cut and Paste 2	6	-	-	-
26	Cut and Paste 3	6	-	-	-

How to read it

Jordan L. has done **8 of 15** scored pages and got **26 of 32** items right with no prompt. **4** pages were all right and **4** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Reading 2B: Lawyer for Equal Schools (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 7 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

PREVIEW

Binder Cover

Slide this into the front of a binder. Type a name in the two fields or write it by hand. The divider tabs and a spine label to cut out are on the next page (page 40).

Social Studies - Biography and Reading

THURGOOD MARSHALL

Biography and Brown v. Board Reading

His Life | Lawyer | Brown

Justice | Words

Teacher _____

Class or student _____

PREVIEW