

Name _____

The Case and the Landmark Decision (BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION) Answer Key

1. b) Oliver Brown

2. Because Oliver Brown's case was the lead case among several combined into one Supreme Court decision.

3. They argued that segregated schools made Black students feel inferior and could never be truly equal, which violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

4. c) Fourteenth Amendment

5. (Sample answer) It means that separating students by race creates unfairness, even if the schools seem similar. The very act of separating students sends a message that one group is less important than the other.

6. Many schools, especially in the South, resisted integration, and it took years to enforce the decision.

7. (Sample answer) Yes, the unanimous decision was important because it showed that all nine justices agreed that segregation was wrong. This made the decision stronger and harder to ignore. If some justices had disagreed, people might have thought the ruling was uncertain. A unified Court helped give more power and legitimacy to the civil rights movement.