

## Skillbuilder: Resolve Conflicts

In April 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. led protests against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. More than 1,000 African American young people followed him. The Birmingham police met the protesters with snarling dogs and fire hoses that delivered painful blasts of water. Pictures of marchers getting bitten by dogs and getting knocked down by water shocked many Americans. Soon millions of Americans supported the civil rights movement. They demanded that the government take action. In May, Birmingham's leaders agreed to end segregation in the city's stores, restaurants, and workplaces. In 1964, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, which made segregation illegal in all 50 states.

### Practice

1. What did the African Americans who marched in Birmingham want?

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2. Did the government of Birmingham feel the same way as the marchers? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What was the result of this conflict in Birmingham?

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4. How did the U.S. government show that it agreed with the marchers' demands for civil rights? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Apply

Think about a time you had a disagreement with a friend. Write a paragraph describing the disagreement you had. How did you eventually resolve the conflict? Did you both change the way you were feeling?