

Name: _____

Date: _____

Linda Brown Incident

In the early 1950's, black and white students attended separate public schools. A little girl named Linda Brown lived with her dad, mom, and two younger sisters in Topeka, Kansas. She attended Monroe Elementary School. Linda had to walk one mile through a railroad switchyard to get to her black elementary school, even though a white elementary school called Sumner Elementary school was only seven blocks away. When she reached the bus stop, she often had to wait in the cold or rain for the bus to take her the next 21 blocks to school.

One day her father took her to the all white Sumner Elementary School. It was much closer to their house, and her father wanted to enroll her there. The principal told her dad that Linda could not come to Sumner Elementary because only white students were allowed to attend, and Linda was black. Linda's dad was very disappointed and didn't think that this was fair to Linda or any other black child.

The law at that time said it was not acceptable for black students to attend the same schools as white students. The law stated that if the schools were equal, then it was fair for black and white children to attend separate schools. Linda's dad did not agree that the schools were equal for his daughter.