



# Progress Toward a Multiracial Nation →

By the middle of this century, people of color will make up the majority in the United States, a culmination of this country's long and often-violent struggle with its multiracial identity. But alongside assorted celebrated "firsts," landmark court cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, and legendary protests such as the March on Washington, are lesser-known political, social, and cultural milestones that have gradually marked the way.

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## 12 Racial Categories Listed in 1920 U.S. Census



4 variations of White as well as Negro, Mulatto, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Native, Foreign-born, and "All other"

POPULATION: 105.7 million

New Mexico enters the union as the 47th state—and the first bilingual one—protecting Spanish speakers in education and voting. (1912)



10,000 African Americans march in New York, believed to be the first major demonstration against lynching and discrimination. (1917)



Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, the first African American player since Major League Baseball banned blacks in the late 1800s. In 2008, players of color made up nearly 40 percent of MLB rosters.

The percentage of people speaking a language other than English rose from 11 percent in 1980 to 18 percent in 2000.

## 8 Racial Categories Listed in 1960 U.S. Census



White, Nonwhite, Negro, Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and "All Other"

POPULATION: 179.3 million

U.S. Supreme Court strikes down laws prohibiting interracial marriage. (1967)



Civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., eventually lead to passage of National Voting Rights Act. A police assault halts the first march of 600 people; a few weeks later, 25,000 march to the state capitol where Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd. (1965)



The Harlem Renaissance produces dozens of African American artists, musicians, and writers, including Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, and Zora Neale Hurston. (1920s–1930s)



The 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals declares the segregation of Mexican and Mexican American students unconstitutional in *Mendez v. Westminster*. (1947)  
The California case is considered a precursor to *Brown v. Board of Education*. (1954)



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, an exclusively African American dance troupe, forms. (1958)



U.S. Senate formally apologizes for its failure to enact an anti-lynching law. Historically, southern senators blocked more than 200 such bills. 3,437 African Americans were lynched from 1880 to 1951. (2005)



Foreign-born workers make up almost 16 percent of the U.S. labor force, the highest proportion since 1920. (2007)



Hundreds of thousands boycott work and school to participate in Day Without Immigrants, demonstrating the contributions of immigrants to everyday society. (2006)



Barack Obama, nation's first African American president, takes office. (2009)



## LOOKING FORWARD

### 31 Racial Categories Listed in 2010 U.S. Census

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun collecting data for the 2010 Census, offering its most comprehensive questionnaire to date.

## 20 Racial Categories Listed in 2000 U.S. Census



Including Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, "Other Spanish," Hispanic, Latino, African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, Chamorro, Samoan, "Other Asian," and "Other Pacific Islander"

POPULATION: 281.4 million

First census allowing respondents to check more than one race. (2000)

71-day standoff at Wounded Knee, S.D., leaves two members of the American Indian Movement dead and elevates Native issues to national stage. (1973)



Thousands of Native Americans participate in the "Longest Walk" from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., to preserve tribal sovereignty. (1978)



"The Cosby Show," a sitcom about an African American family, tops the Nielsen ratings for five consecutive years. (1985–1990)



First observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a national holiday. (1986)



"Sesame Street," with its cast of diverse urban characters debuts on public television. (1969)



After a more-than-20-year campaign for redress, families of Japanese Americans interned during World War II begin to receive more than \$1 billion in reparations. (1990)

In 2004, international adoptions in U.S. reach peak: Nearly 23,000 children join U.S. families and receive U.S. citizenship. The 2000 Census was the first to distinguish between biological and adopted children; of the families with adopted children, 17 percent have adopted a child of another race.

