

**SUPREME COURT CASE****21***May be used with  
Chapter 20, Section 1*

learn. Segregation with the sanction of law, therefore, has the tendency to [retard] the education and mental development of Negro children and to deprive them of some of the benefits they would receive in a racially integrated school system."

Agreeing with this statement, Warren concluded, "Whatever may have been the extent of psychological knowledge at the time of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, this finding is amply supported by modern authority. Any language in *Plessy v. Ferguson* contrary to this finding is rejected."

On this basis the Court concluded that "in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the law guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. This disposition makes unnecessary any discussion whether such segregation also violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

**Analyzing the Case**

- 1 How does the *Brown* case differ from *Sweatt v. Painter*?

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- 2 What was the question raised by both *Plessy* and *Brown*?

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- 3 On what basis did the Court reach its decision in *Brown*?

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**Critical Thinking**

- 4 **Evaluating Information** How would you have interpreted the phrase "separate but equal"? Do you agree or disagree with the ruling in the *Brown* case? Explain your answer.

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