



Meet a Supreme Justice



photo courtesy White House Photo Office Collection

Thurgood Marshall, left, with President Lyndon Johnson at the White House in 1967.

On Aug. 30, 1967, Thurgood Marshall took a historic oath. He became the first African-American appointed as an associate justice to the Supreme Court of the United States.

This week, The Mini Page honors Marshall's 110th birthday by telling the story of a little boy born in Baltimore who made his way to the highest court in the country.

An interest in law

Thoroughgood Marshall was the second son of a kindergarten teacher and a steward, or headwaiter, at a club. His father's father was an escaped slave who ran a grocery store in Baltimore.

Born on July 2, 1908, Thoroughgood got tired of his long name as a child and changed it to Thurgood. He convinced his mother to change the name on his birth certificate. He had already started winning arguments!

When Thurgood's father wasn't working, he would take his boys to the courthouse to watch trials and arguments. Afterward, they would **debate** the cases and try to come up with better arguments.

Segregated schools

Thurgood grew up in a neighborhood with both white and black people, but he had to attend a **segregated**, or all-black, elementary school. Biographers say he was not a good student, and sometimes his eyes would wander to the police station next door to the school.

He noticed that the black prisoners were beaten more than the whites. He felt that the

unfair treatment was wrong, and he started to think about becoming a lawyer.

When Thurgood got into trouble at school, teachers would make him read the Constitution of the United States. By the time he graduated, he knew it by heart.

A law degree

In college at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Thurgood started paying more attention to his studies. He wanted to go to law school at the University of Maryland, but it did not accept African-American students.

Instead, Marshall went to Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. When he had time, he would go to the Supreme Court and watch lawyers argue cases before the justices.

After graduating from law school, Marshall and his former professor, Charles Houston, defended a black man who sued the University of Maryland over its discrimination against African-Americans. They won, and the school was forced to **integrate**, or accept all races, in 1935.

Marshall continued his career and argued many cases, concentrating most on integrating schools. He worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



Young Thurgood Marshall

Brown v. Board of Ed.

One of Thurgood Marshall's most famous cases was *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka (Kansas)*. In 1954,



Thurgood Marshall (with book) in 1958.

Rev. Oliver Brown, an African-American, wanted his daughter to go to the school closest to their home, but it was a white school. Thirteen other families joined the lawsuit, and the case made it to the Supreme Court.

Thurgood Marshall argued the case, and the justices ruled **unanimously** (all in agreement) to end school segregation. Marshall became famous.

Serving his country

President John F. Kennedy offered Marshall a new job in 1961: a federal judgeship on the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson asked him to be **solicitor general**, or the government's lawyer in cases before the Supreme Court.

Finally, in 1967, Johnson appointed Marshall to the Supreme Court. He served for 24 years, and he continued working for civil rights for all Americans.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/2I1KS4e

At the library:

- "Thurgood Marshall" by Carla Williams
- "Brown v. Board of Education: A Fight for Simple Justice" by Susan Goldman Rubin

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Thurgood Marshall are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ARGUE, ASSOCIATE, BALTIMORE, CASE, CONSTITUTION, COURT, INTEGRATE, JUSTICE, LAWYER, MARSHALL, OATH, SCHOOL, SEGREGATED, STEWARD, SUPREME, TEACHER, THURGOOD, TOPEKA, UNANIMOUS.

U E L A W Y E R E H C A E T S
N T O P E K A D J U S T I C E
A L L N O I T U T I T S N O C
N L O L V E M E R P U S X Z C
I A O E S A C S T E W A R D Q
M H H Q F A S S O C I A T E
O S C T E T A R G E T N I S F
U R S A T D E T A G E R G E S
S A D O O G R U H T C O U R T
L M A R G U E R O M I T L A B

Cook's Corner

Salmon and Pasta Salad

You'll need:

- 8 ounces elbow macaroni, cooked and drained
- 2 ripe tomatoes, chopped
- 2 medium dill pickles, diced

- 2 (5-ounce) cans salmon, drained and chopped
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- salt and pepper to taste



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Allow cooked pasta to reach room temperature.
2. Combine pasta with tomatoes, pickles, salmon and mayonnaise.
3. Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.
4. Chill 1 hour before serving. Serves 4.

Mini Jokes



Winnie: What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?
Will: Thunderwear!

Eco Note



Is it hot and sticky where you are today? When it's a muggy summer day, you probably hear the word "humid." But what is humidity? Relative humidity is the amount of water that the air can hold before it rains. Humidity is usually measured in percentages, so the highest level of relative humidity — right before it rains — is 100 percent. You may also hear "dew point." When the dew point and the air temperature are the same, humidity is at 100 percent.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about the U.S. Supreme Court.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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1. A way to behave that people agree to follow (3-letter noun)

□ □ □

2. The place where a trial takes place (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. To discuss or disagree with different points of view (5-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □

4. A history of past events (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

1. Sam obeys the _____, crossing the street only with a green light.
2. Robert went to _____ to watch the trial.
3. Mike and George _____ about their favorite sports.
4. Most lawyers take pride in their good _____ with clients.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Law, Court, Argue, Record.

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