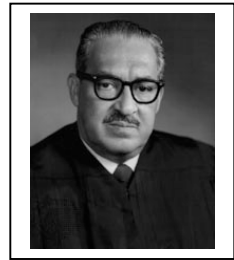




# 1993 Freedom Award National Recipient Thurgood Marshall



## PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

### Biography

Thurgood Marshall, a prominent African American activist and civil rights lawyer, achieved widespread fame when he was appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967. He was the first black to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. Marshall had previously served as the chief counsel for the NAACP. Marshall served on the Supreme Court until 1991 when he retired for health reasons; his legacy was a dedication to individual rights and in particular to the rights of criminal suspects against the government. Thurgood Marshall died in 1993.

What was Mr. Marshall’s profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Receptionist
- B. Philanthropist
- C. Judge
- D. Activist

Answers:  
C & D - Mr. Marshall worked as an activist and an attorney.


### Vocabulary

**Activist:** A person who practices direct action to effect changes in social conditions and governments

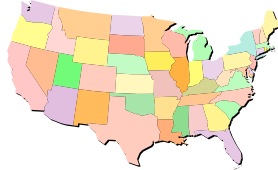
Name two people (aside from Thurgood Marshall) who you think are **Activists**:

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1.



2.



3.



4.

**Can you identify the images above?**

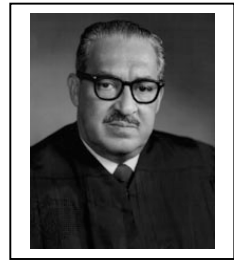
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:  
1. World Map 2. United States 3 Washington, D.C. 4. Supreme Court building



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**POST-VISIT ACTIVITY**

The Supreme Court is the highest federal court in the United States. It was established by the Constitution to limit the power of the legislative and executive branches. The legislative branch is composed of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives; the main duty of the legislative branch is to pass laws. The executive branch consists of the President, Vice-President, and the presidential cabinet; the main role of the executive branch is to oversee foreign policy and enforce the laws passed by Congress. The judicial branch includes the Supreme Court and a system of federal courts that govern state court systems. Interpreting the Constitution is the role of the Supreme Court.



Nine justices serve on the Supreme Court. Each justice is appointed by the President and must be approved by Congress. They are appointed to serve a life term. The Supreme Court is highest United States court. It is the last place of appeal for cases that have gone through the lower state and federal courts systems. The decisions made in the Supreme Court are finally. Many other countries with common law traditions (legal decisions are based upon precedent) also have supreme courts.

**Vocabulary**

**Precedent:** An earlier decision that serves as an example or rule

Can you name any of the current Supreme Court Justices? If not, see if you can use resources at your library to find out.

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How was the Supreme Court important in the Civil Rights Movement? Can you name any important court cases from the time period?

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The picture above is the Lady of Justice often used as the symbol for the legal system. She is blindfolded and holds a sword and set of scales. Why is this an appropriate symbol for justice?

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