**1500-1600s – slave trade begins**. The British colonize parts of the world and introduce these new places to the rest of Europe. They find the potential to grow sugar, tobacco and cotton. From the new found country America, the Brits send the raw materials to Great Britain where they are made into products like clothes etc. These products are then sent to the colonies in Africa. From Africa, slaves are sent to America. This is called the triangular trade and is very good for the British economy.

**In the 1700-1800s agriculture grows in the south of USA. But the use of slavery stops being ok in Europe.** Many of these thoughts are now moving to the USA. In the south, slave use is still very common. Southern USA stops the triangular trade, sending raw materials to the UK and begins creating products in the northern USA instead. At the same time people are more educated and aware of what is going on and the use of slaves is not really liked in the north. A man called Abraham Lincoln is trying to be President and says that he wants to change things for the slaves.

**1861 Lincoln becomes president.** The south wants to keep their free workers for agriculture and no longer wants to be friends with black-loving-north. Many southern states leave the union – USA (United States of America). They want their own nation - *Confederate States of America, CSA -* and create their own government, but are not acknowledged as a nation.   
  
**1861-1865 The civil war - between north and south  
  
1863 Lincoln frees the slaves** with the emancipation proclamation– a political piece of paper, but since the south is doing their own thing no slave is actually freed.  
**1865 The north wins the war and Lincoln is killed 6 days later.** On the 18th of December that year, the 13th amendment comes into the Constitution, saying that slavery is abolished completely in USA.  
  
Old soldiers in the south are pissed off after the loss of the war and groups like the **Ku Klux Klan** is formed to "protect the whites".  
  
**Jim-Crow-Laws** are used to separate different ethnicities. There are public schools, public places, and public transportation, restrooms, restaurants, and drinking fountains for whites and blacks. Blacks are controlled using education e.g. by having **Black / / white schools** - in order to vote, you must pass an exam. By controlling the education in black schools, it is ensured that black people do not pass the exams and therefore, cannot vote and change things in their society.   
  
**1955-1968 The civil rights movement.** It stars with the bus boycott when **Rosa Parks** refuses to hand over her bus seat to a white person. (Fun fact, there was another woman before Parks; Claudette Colvin, read up on it!)  
  
Different laws change during these years, that slowly give all American citizens the same rights.  
  
**1963 The “I have a dream”** speech, by Reverend **Martin Luther King**, is held in front of 250,000 attendees in Washington DC. In 1968, King is killed.

**2009 USA gets its first black President, Barack Obama.**