ARTIFACT EXPLORATION:
Photographs of Segregated Schools
Theme: The Supreme Court
Photographs of Segregated Schools
http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=3&question=38
Visit the “Practice” tab to explore this object.

Before reading the information about the photographs, answer the following:

Describe: Objectively describe both photographs. What is happening in each photograph? What kinds of objects do you see? Describe the people that you see. What do you think they are doing?

Analyze: Where were each of these photographs taken? Do you think they were taken during the same time period? Why or why not? Who do you think took the photograph? Why? What may have been happening before or after the photo was taken?

Evaluate: Justify why you came to those conclusions about the photo. What further questions do you have about the photo? Read over the information provided to you in “Preparing for the Oath.” Why are these two schools different? Why do you think this photo was put into the “Courts” category?

Using your knowledge of these things, respond to the following questions:
1. What do you know about “separate but equal” schools? In what ways were they unequal?

2. How does the medium of photography communicate something that may not have been evident in words, objects, or statistics? Why are these photos particularly powerful?

3. How has education changed since these photos were taken?

Discuss:
1. How has education changed since these photos were taken?

2. What is the one thing that you would remember most about these photographs? Why?
Learn More Links

Separate is Not Equal: *Brown v. Board of Education*:  
[http://americanhistory.si.edu/Brown/history/](http://americanhistory.si.edu/Brown/history/)  
This online exhibition examines the historic turning point in the history of race relations in the United States through photographs, background information, and lesson plans.

Suggested Extension Activities

- Explore the online exhibition to find political cartoons. Analyze the political bias and author’s message presented in each of the cartoons.
- Research examples of segregated education around the world. Do these problems still exist today?
- Create a timeline that charts the progression of education in the United States. How have things changed over the years? How, perhaps, have they remained the same?