



Remembering Jim Crow: Student Exercises

Research Challenge

1. Do you know anyone who lived in or visited the South during Jim Crow? If so, interview them to learn about their memories or experiences during that era.
2. The term “Jim Crow” was taken from the minstrel shows of the 1800s. Find out what you can about minstrel shows as a form of entertainment and also as an expression of racial assumptions.
3. Compare and contrast the Jim Crow system of the American South to the system of apartheid in South Africa.
4. Identify why the Supreme Court decisions in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) and *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) were important turning points in the history of Jim Crow.
5. Find out what you can about any of the following civil rights actions: the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Freedom Rides, and the 1963 March on Washington, D.C.
6. Investigate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Why are these two laws often seen as marking the “official” end of Jim Crow?
7. Harlem, in New York City, has long been a center of African American arts and culture. Investigate its artistic, cultural, or political history.
8. When was the American military desegregated? How does this turning point tie into the bigger story of the end of Jim Crow?