

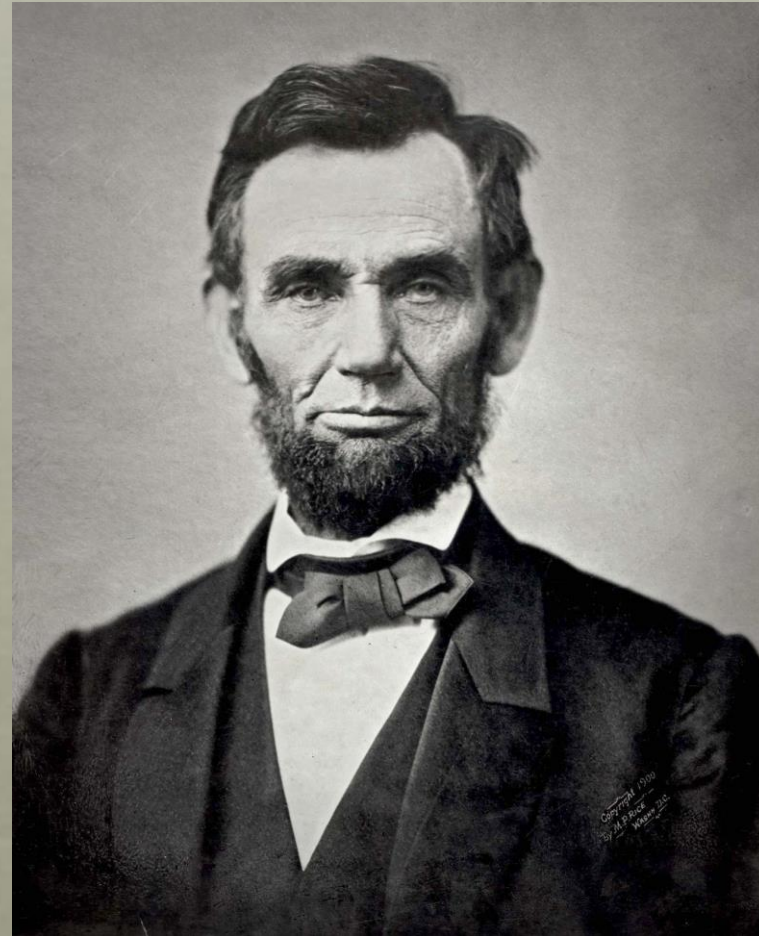
# BACKGROUND TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

# JOURNAL OF CHAMPIONS

When was the “Civil Rights Movement?” What events does it include?

# EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

- Issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863
- Proclaimed freedom to all slaves that lived in rebellion states (3.1 million slaves)
- Became a wartime goal, but did not give slaves citizenship nor outlaw slavery entirely.



# When did the Civil Rights movement begin?

"And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons. " - Lincoln

# RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS

- Amendments passed during the years directly following the Civil War
- These amendments were to help unify the nation together, guarantee freedom and prevent discrimination for all people, including former slaves.

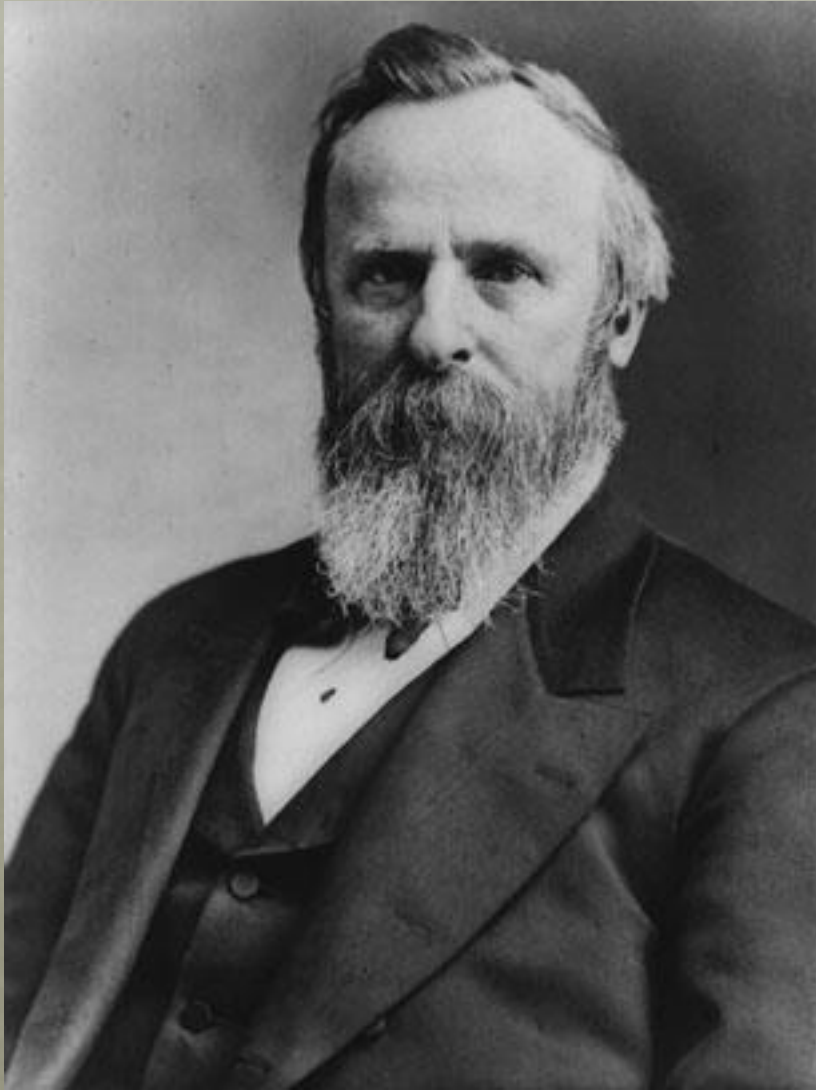


# ACTIVITY

*As our 3 volunteers read through each of the Reconstruction Amendments, summarize the amendments in your notes.*

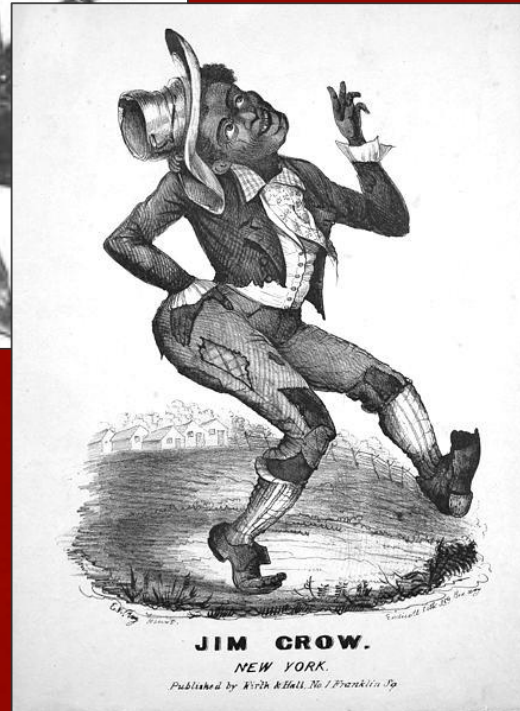
*People weren't racist anymore,  
right?*

# END OF RECONSTRUCTION



- In 1877, Rutherford B. Hayes became President and ended Reconstruction
- Now there was no one to enforce the new laws/amendments; no one to punish those who treated blacks unfairly
- People worked to undermine efforts of equality
- Black codes and Jim Crow laws created legal forms of segregation

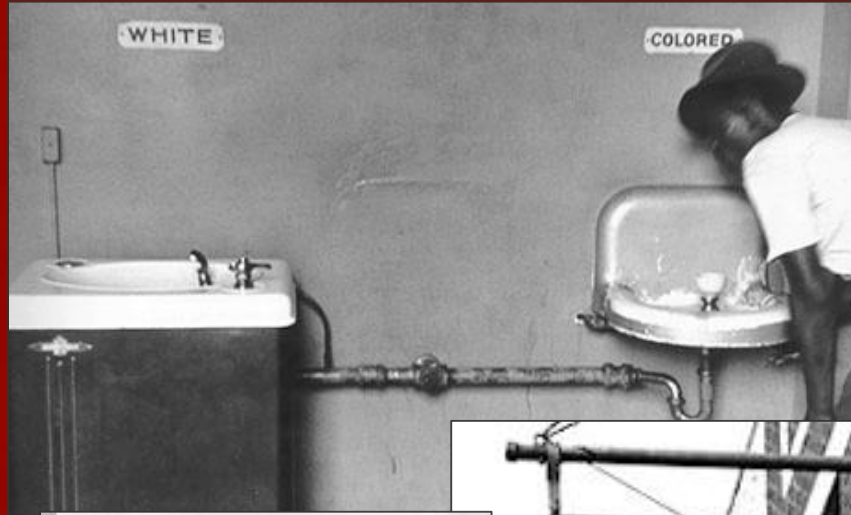
# SO, WHO IS JIM CROW?



- **Daddy Rice**
  - White actor
  - Covered his face with charcoal and then sang and dance in a silly way
  - Characters name was Jim Crow
  - People began to use Jim Crow as a way to describe Black People



# YOU SAY I CAN'T DO WHAT?!



- Jim Crow Laws were found all over the South (and even in many Northern states)
- Limits on who people could marry, adopt, or where they could attend school
- Segregation of public accommodations as well

# WHO IS BLACK?

- Jim Crow laws were based on the difference between whites and blacks
- Considered black if you had only one great grandparent who was black (1/8 African heritage)
- If there was doubt, a person would have to prove heritage - 3 generations back







# JIM CROW LAWS

## Education

- Were public schools separate AND EQUAL?
- Lacked books, supplies and other resources
- One law said blacks and whites couldn't use the same textbooks
- Another law said bus drivers had to be the same race as the students they drove around



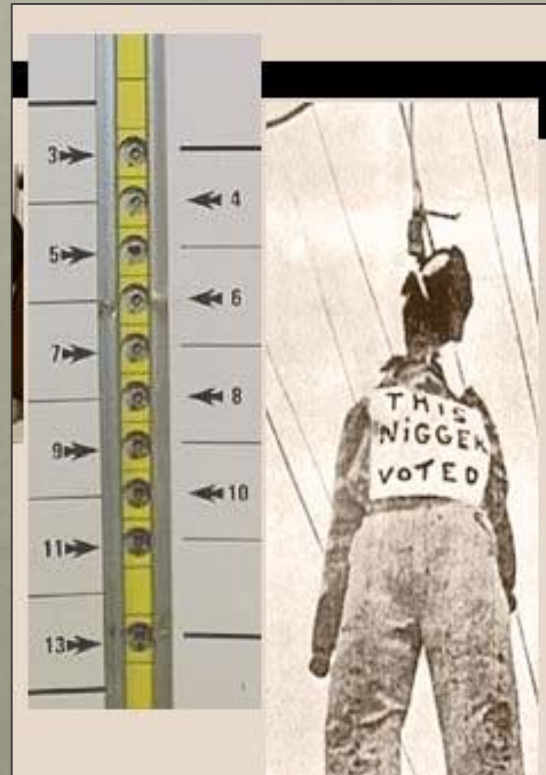
## Marriage and Family

- Miscegenation: mixing of races
- Northern and Southern states had a variety of laws that banned marriages and relationships between blacks and whites
- Interracial adoptions banned

# JIM CROW LAWS

## Transportation:

- Blacks required to sit in the back of public buses and train cars
- Sometimes they were forced to sit in separate cars altogether



## Voting Rights:

- Laws that restricted African American's right to vote
- Even when blacks did vote, many of their ballots were stolen or not counted
- KKK intimidated black voters



# JIM CROW LAWS

## Public Accommodation:

- Anything from a restaurant to a prison to a hotel
- Laws were written to keep races separate, especially in public spaces
- Signs posted to designate which area was for which race
- Examples: Separate entrances, drinking fountains, libraries, etc



# BARRIERS TO VOTING

Law	Description
White Primary	Only white people could vote in the primary party elections, so they decided who would be running in the regular election.
Grandfather Clause	Only those who had grandfathers who could vote <i>before</i> the Civil War could vote in elections. (Few if any blacks voted before the Civil War!)
Poll Tests	Citizens had to pass reading and logic questions that the poll worker 'graded'. If you were white, you usually passed.
Poll Taxes	Citizens had to pay a fee to the poll worker before they could vote.
Intimidation & Violence	KKK members would intimidate voters.

# ACTIVITY

*You will be shown primary source documents from the Jim Crow era and need to determine which rights are restricted in each document.*

*Circle the correct category in your notes.*

*Also, place a star next to the document that shocked you most.*



Color *W*

Ward *3*

Alexandria, La. *- 7-12*, 1918.

RECEIVED OF

*J. C. Duplessis*

**\$1.00 POLL TAX 1918**  
**For the Year**

*Da vance*  
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector, Rapides Parish, La.

# POLL TAX RECEIPT

Louisiana 1918

DOCUMENT 1



# REX THEATRE

Mississippi 1939

DOCUMENT 2



“...no athletic team of any school shall engage in any athletic contest of any nature within the state of Virginia with another team on which persons of any other race are members.”

## VIRGINIA STATE LAW

1960

**DOCUMENT 3**



## ENTRANCE SIGN

Alabama 1931

DOCUMENT 4

“White and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school, but in separate schools under the same general regulations as to management, usefulness and efficiency.”

## TENNESSEE LAW

1873

DOCUMENT 5



# SEGREGATED BUS

Florida 1950s

**DOCUMENT 6**



“Interracial adoptions are forbidden by law.”

# MISSOURI STATE LAW

1952

**DOCUMENT 7**



“Businesses are allowed to choose their customers and have the *right to refuse* service to any person.”

# MISSISSIPPI STATE LAW

1956

**DOCUMENT 8**

Declared that the legislature could never pass any law allowing “any marriage between any white person and a Negro, or descendant of a Negro.”

# ALABAMA CONSTITUTION

1901

**DOCUMENT 9**



# BUS STATION

Texas 1952

Document 10

# PLESSY V. FERGUSON

## Background of the Case

- State of Louisiana enacted a law that required separate railway cars for blacks and whites
- In 1892, Homer Adolph Plessy—who was seven-eighths Caucasian—took a seat in a “whites only” car of a Louisiana train.
- He refused to move to the car reserved for blacks and was arrested.

## *QUESTION*

- *Is Louisiana’s law mandating racial segregation on its trains an unconstitutional infringement on both the privileges and immunities and the equal protection clauses of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment?*

# ACTIVITY

*Put the FACTS OF THE CASE in the right order on your paper. Summarize them in your notes in correct order.*





# FACTS OF THE CASE

- Homer Plessy bought a first class train ticket and sat down in the 'white only' section of the train.
- Plessy was arrested for riding in a 'whites only' railroad car, because he was 1/8th black.
- Plessy argued that the Act violated his 13th & 14th Amendment rights, but he lost in the local court.
- Plessy appealed the decision and lost again, but took the case to the Supreme Court in 1896.
- The Supreme Court upheld the previous decisions and said that racial segregation was constitutional if accommodations were equal. This led to more and more legal segregation all over the US.

# PLESSY V. FERGUSON

- CONCLUSION

- 7 votes for Ferguson, 1 vote against
- “The justices based their decision on the separate-but-equal doctrine, that separate facilities for blacks and whites satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment so long as they were equal. . . Justice Brown conceded that the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment intended to establish absolute equality for the races before the law. But Brown noted that “in the nature of things it could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color, or to enforce social, as distinguished from political equality, or commingling of the two races unsatisfactory to either.” In short, segregation does not in itself constitute unlawful discrimination.”

[http://www.oyez.org/cases/1851-1900/1895/1895\\_210](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1851-1900/1895/1895_210)

# MURDER OF EMMITT TILL



# MURDER OF EMMITT TILL



Emmett Tills case - no one was  
convicted for his murder



# RESISTANCE TO JIM CROW

- Resistance took many forms throughout the nation and over the years
- People agreed that Jim Crow laws were unfair, but disagreed about how to best deal with the problem.
- **Booker T. Washington (Late 1800s - 1915)** = focus on hard work and create community support groups/if blacks earn respect, whites will give it
- **W.E.B. Du Bois (late 1800s-mid 1900s)** = Only way blacks can get rights is through protest and activism