

Setting The Scene

1. Explain why the Mexican children in San Angelos, Texas in 1910 could not attend the new schools that the city built that year?

African Americans

2. After Reconstruction, African Americans in America lost many of their hard won rights. Explain what happened in the”

A. South-

B. North-

African Americans: Lynching

3. How did the depression of 1893 affect the lives of African Americans in the South?

Read the information below and answer the question that follows.

Lynching is the illegal execution of an accused person by a mob. The term lynching probably derived from the name Charles Lynch (1736-96), a justice of the peace who administered rough justice in Virginia. Lynching was originally a system of punishment used by whites against African American slaves. However, whites who protested against this were also in danger of being lynched. On 7th November, 1837, Elijah Parish Lovejoy, the editor of the *Alton Observer*, was killed by a white mob after he had published articles criticizing lynching and advocating the abolition of slavery.

After the establishment of the Ku Klux Klan in 1867 the number of lynching's of African American increased dramatically. The main objective of the KKK was to maintain white supremacy in the South, which they felt was under threat after their defeat in the Civil War. It has been estimated that between 1880 and 1920, an average of two African Americans a week were lynched in the United States.

In 1884 Ida Wells, editor of *Free Speech*, a small newspaper in Memphis, carried out an investigation into lynching. She discovered during a short period 728 black men and women had been lynched by white mobs. On 9th March, 1892, three African American businessmen were lynched in Memphis. When Ida Wells wrote an article condemning the lynchers, a white mob destroyed her printing press. They declared that they intended to lynch her but fortunately she was visiting Philadelphia at the time. Unable to return to Memphis, Ida Wells was recruited by the progressive newspaper, *New York Age* where she continued her campaign against lynching and Jim Crow laws.

4. What was lynching and how was it used in the South by the KKK ?

5. Who was Ida Wells and how did she fight against lynching and the Jim Crow Laws?

Booker T. Washington

6. What did Booker T. Washington say African Americans must do to in order to move up in society? Explain your answer in detail.

Booker T. Washington, The Tuskegee Institute, W.E.B. Du Bois and the NAACP

Read the information below and complete the graphic organizer that follows.

Booker T. Washington was named head of the Tuskegee Institute in 1880. Washington felt that in order to become part of society the newly freed blacks should shun the education system taught to white students and instead study a vocational education. This included farming, carpentry, brickmaking, shoemaking, printing and cabinetmaking. This enabled students to become involved in the building of a new school. Students worked long-hours, arising at five in the morning and finishing at nine-thirty at night.

By 1888 the school owned 540 acres of land and had over 400 students. Washington was able to attract good teachers to his school. Washington's leadership of the school which said that blacks should be patient in waiting for equal rights and accept only a vocational education, made the school acceptable to whites. He did not believe that blacks should campaign for the vote, and claimed that blacks needed to prove their loyalty to the United States by working hard without complaint before being granted their political rights.

Southern whites, who had previously been against the education of African Americans, supported Washington's ideas as they saw them as a means of encouraging them to accept their inferior economic and social status. This resulted in white businessmen such as Andrew Carnegie, Seth Low and Collis Huntington donating large sums of money to his school.

In September, 1895, Booker T. Washington became a national figure when one of his speeches was widely reported by the country's newspapers. Washington's conservative views made him popular with white politicians who were keen that he should become the new leader of the African American population. To help him in this President William McKinley visited the Tuskegee Institute and praised Washington's achievements. In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt invited Washington to visit him in the White House. To southern whites this was going too far. Booker T. Washington now spent most of his time on the lecture circuit. He and his ideas were criticized by many African Americans who objected to the way Washington argued that it was the role of blacks to serve whites.

In 1903 W.E.B. Du Bois joined the attack on Washington with his essay *The Soul of Black Folks*. W.E.B. Du Bois disagreed with Washington arguing that instead of being patient blacks should actively fight for their rights and receive that same education given to white students. W.E.B. Du Bois helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. Throughout its existence the NAACP has worked primarily through the American legal system to fulfill its goals of full suffrage and other civil rights, and an end to segregation and racial violence.

Explain the differing views of W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington over how African Americans should achieve racial equality in America.

Booker T. Washington	W.E.B. Du Bois