

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s

Topic 4 Content: Early Civil Rights Leaders Notes

Introduction

A graphic with a dark blue top half and a light blue bottom half. The text "Early Civil Rights Leaders" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the center. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "whro EDUCATION" featuring a stylized leaf icon. In the bottom right corner, there is a white rounded rectangle containing the word "Start" in a dark blue font.

Early Civil Rights Leaders

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Instructions

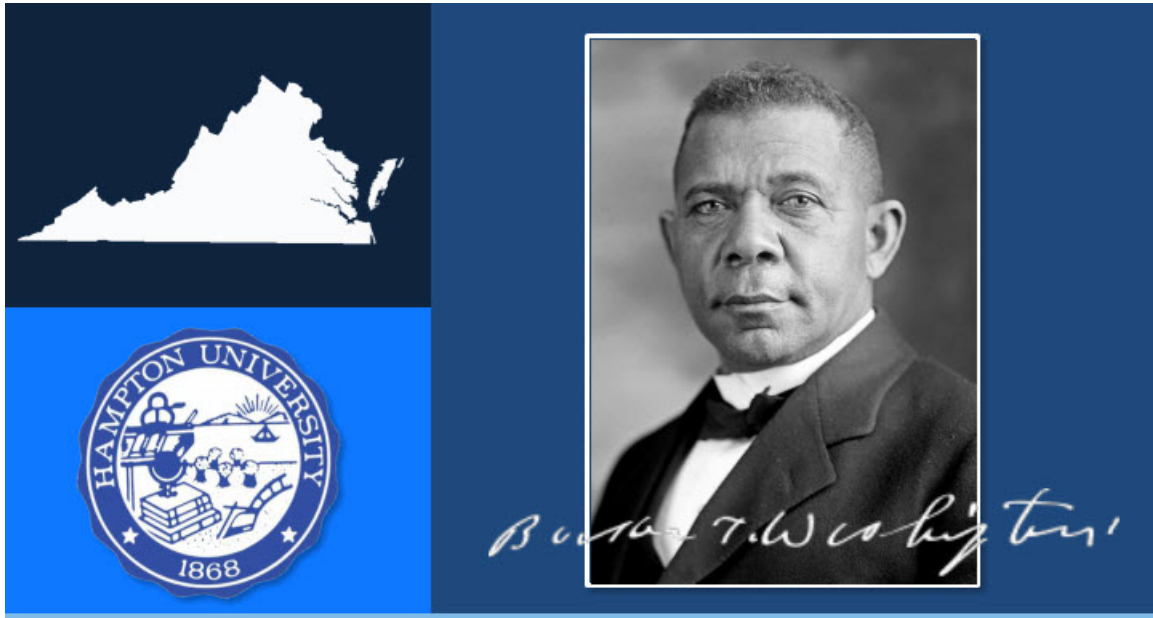
Ida B. Wells	In this interactivity, learn about accomplishments and contributions of three early civil rights leaders. Click any contributor to begin. Make sure to visit each early leader before you close the interactivity.
W.E.B. Dubois	
Booker T. Washington	

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Booker T. Washington




- Born in Virginia in 1856
- Graduated from Virginia's Hampton Institute

Booker T. Washington was born in Virginia in 1856, and was best known as a prominent African American educator and early civil rights leader. Washington believed that the key to African American equality would be obtained through education. After graduating from Virginia's Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, Washington became the leader of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama (Tuskegee University). While at the Tuskegee Institute, Washington sought to equip African Americans with the labor skills required to promote their economic value in society. Students acquired teaching diplomas and vocational skills.

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Booker T. Washington



- Provided African Americans a basic education and due process of law


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In 1895, Washington was invited to speak at the Cotton States and International Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia. With nearly 800,000 people in attendance, Washington delivered a powerful oration that challenged “Jim Crow” segregation and provided the foundation for the Atlanta Compromise. In the Atlanta Compromise, an African American coalition composed of middle class African Americans, church leaders, and white politicians, met with Southern white leaders and came to a controversial agreement. In the agreement, African Americans would submit to white political rule, while being guaranteed a basic education and due process of law.

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W.E.B. Dubois



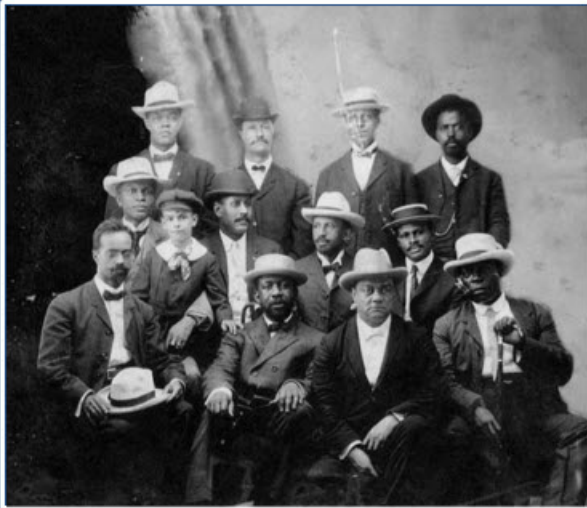

- Activist against racism and discrimination who opposed the Atlanta Compromise
- Received a doctoral degree from Harvard

W.E.B. Dubois was an early civil rights leader who targeted racism while promoting equal rights. Dubois was an activist who against any form of discrimination. W.E.B. DuBois was opposed to the Atlanta Compromise feeling that African Americans should engage in the struggle for civil rights and not “accommodate” the Southern white leaders. Dubois was the first African American to receive a doctoral degree from Harvard in 1895. He encouraged the African American community to seek a liberal arts education. A strong education would produce strong leadership, and more African Americans were needed in leadership roles.

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W.E.B. Dubois



NAACP

Founders of the Niagara Movement

- Co-founded the Niagara Movement
- Co-founded the NAACP

In 1905, Dubois and several other civil rights activists met in Canada, near Niagara Falls. Together, they formed the Niagara Movement, which strived for equal rights for all African Americans and increased political representation. In 1909, Dubois co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP still exists today, and serves to promote political, educational, social, and economic equality for all people. The organization also wants to eliminate hatred and discrimination. Dubois spent his life fighting for equal rights and the end of discrimination. Although he passed away a year earlier, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

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Ida B. Wells



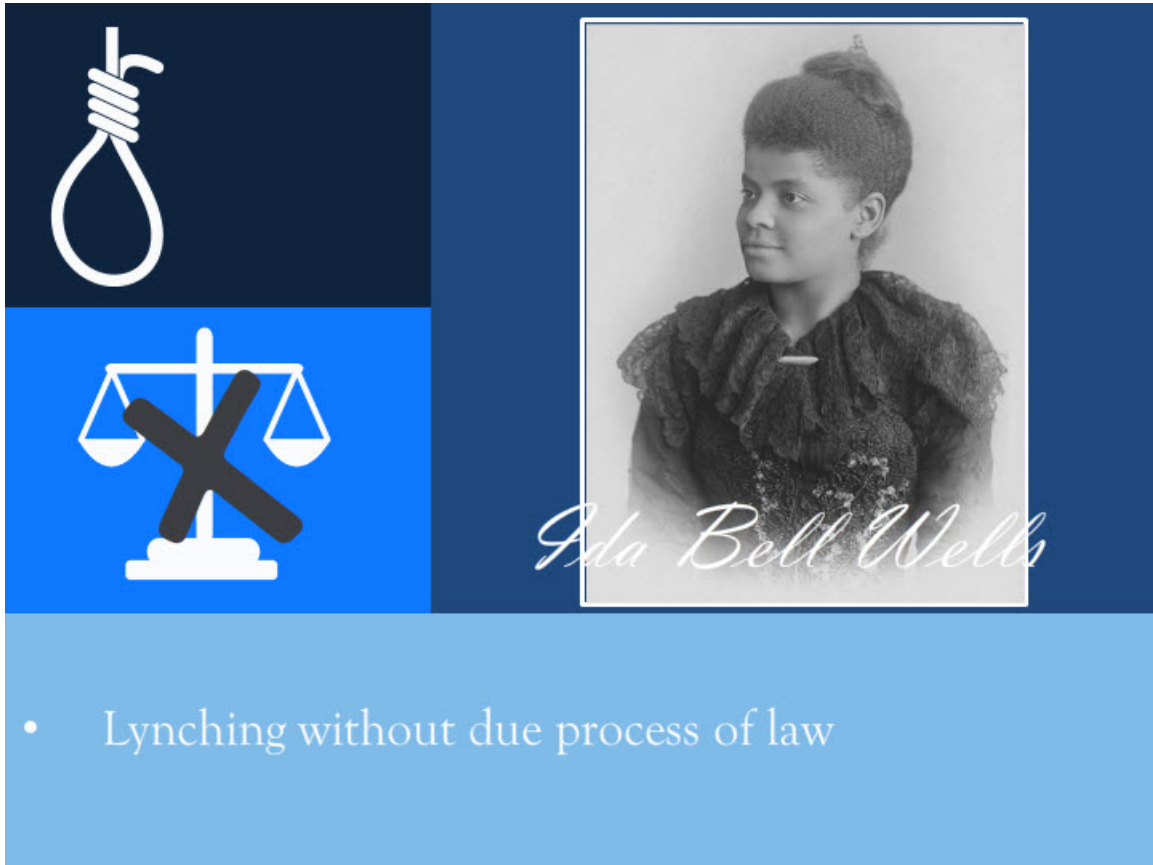
- Born into slavery in 1862
- Became a teacher and journalist in Memphis, Tennessee

Ida Wells was born into slavery before emancipation. After emancipation Wells moved to Memphis, Tennessee and worked as a teacher in a segregated public school, and as a journalist, and as a publisher. In 1891, Wells was fired from her job because she wrote of the poor conditions of the black only schools in the city.

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Ida B. Wells



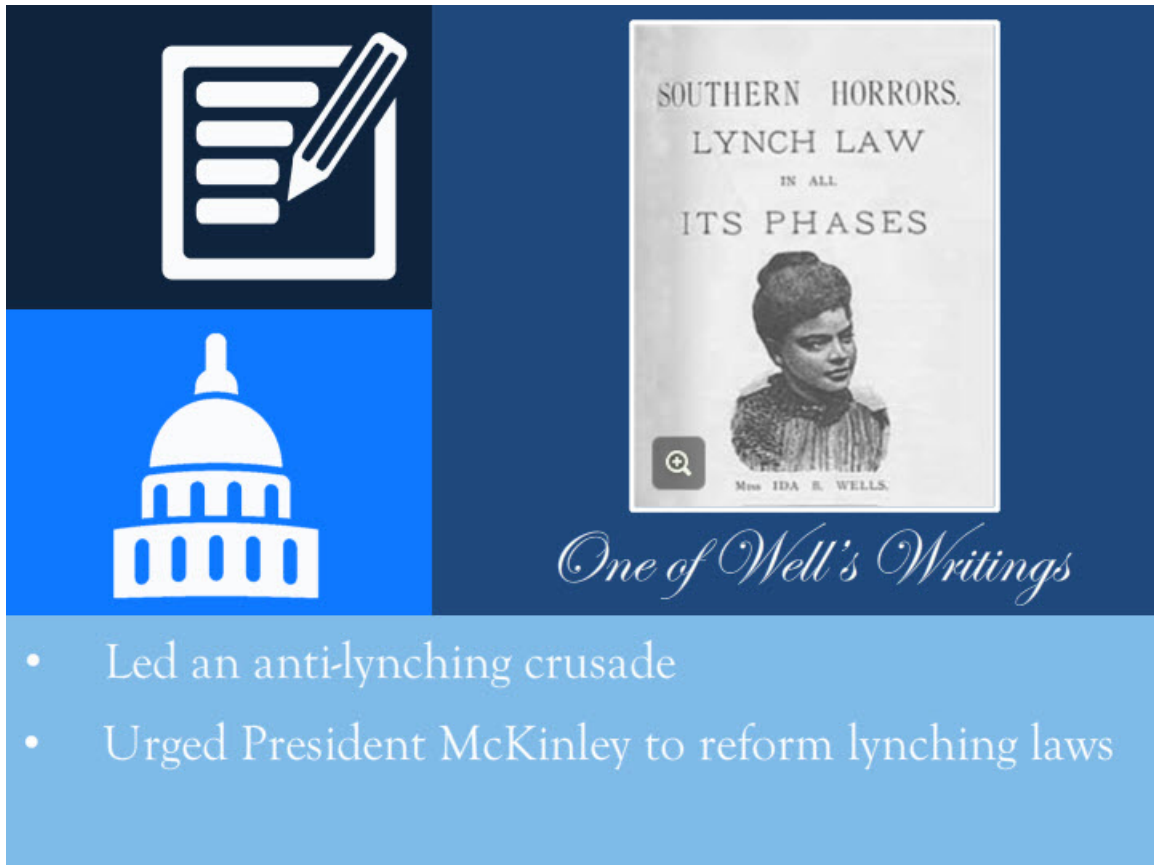
- Lynching without due process of law

In March of 1892, Wells would champion another cause. Three African American business men, who were friends of Wells, were lynched without a trial. The men were entrepreneurs whose business drew customers away from a white-owned store. One night the white store owners decided to vandalize the three men's store. While standing defense of their storefront, the three businessmen shot the white attackers. They were arrested and lynched without a trial.

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Ida B. Wells



• Led an anti-lynching crusade

• Urged President McKinley to reform lynching laws

The killing of her friends inspired Wells to lead an anti-lynching crusade. She traveled around the South and wrote articles about different lynching events. Because of her efforts, Wells lived in danger and was warned she would be killed if she returned to Memphis. Wells stayed in the North and continued to write about the cause. In 1898, Wells led a protest in Washington, D.C., urging President William McKinley to reform lynching laws. For her entire life, Wells remained committed to the cause.