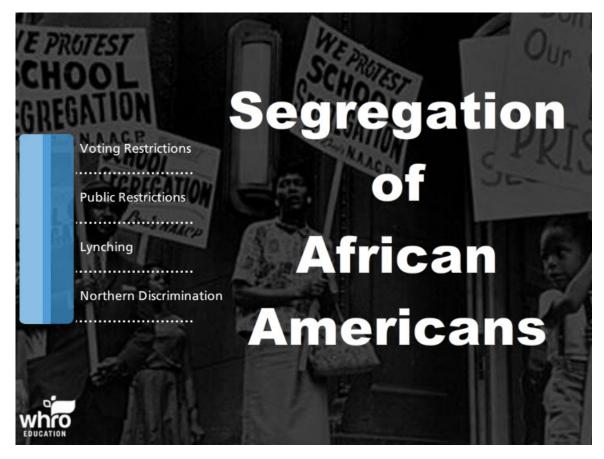
Introduction

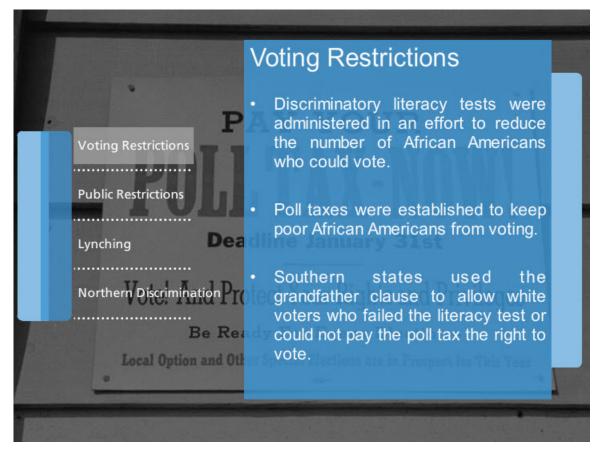


The Segregation of African Americans

Use the menu on the left to learn about how the segregation of African Americans occurred during the "Jim Crow" Era.



Voting Restrictions



African Americans had to pass state administered literacy tests and pay a tax in order to vote. Although all potential voters were supposed to take these tests, they were used to discourage and prevent African Americans from voting. In fact, evidence exists that suggests African American voters were given harder literacy tests than white people, and requirements for passing them were subjective.

Each year before someone could vote, he or she had to pay a poll tax. The taxes were established to keep poor whites and African Americans from voting. Because leaders of Southern states wanted to reinstate all white voters, several added the grandfather clause to their respective state constitutions. The grandfather clause allowed poor and illiterate whites to vote if their fathers or grandfathers were eligible before January 1, 1867. Before this date, freed slaves had not gained the right to vote.



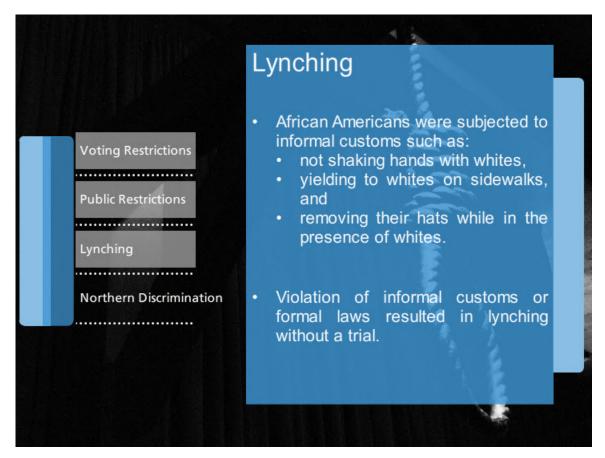
Public Restrictions



Racial inequality became so bad in the South that some Southern states passed segregation laws. These laws created "separate but equal" white and black public and private facilities. They were known as the Jim Crow Laws after a song that ended with the lyrics "Jump, Jim Crow." The year 1877 began the Jim Crow Era, and led to the enactment of the "Jim Crow" laws. The Jim Crow Era denied African Americans full rights of citizenship, and lasted until 1965.



Lynching

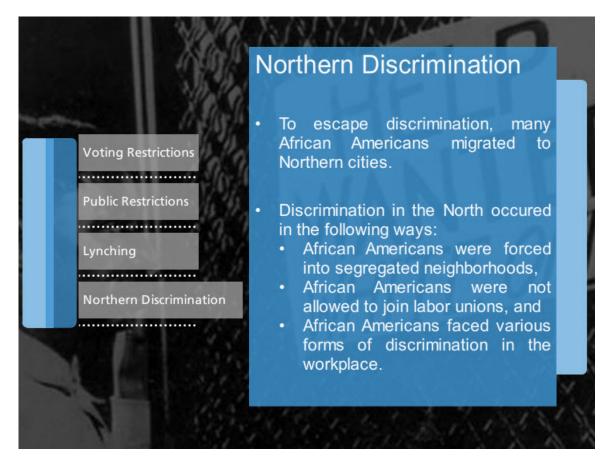


African Americans in the South faced a series of formal and informal laws and customs. For example, African Americans and whites did not shake hands, African Americans had to avoid getting in the way of whites while walking on sidewalks, and African American men had to remove their hats while in the presence of whites.

Those who did not follow the formal laws and informal customs received violent consequences. In many cases, an African American who violated a law would be lynched without a trial. Lynching reached its highest point in the 1880s and 1890s, and continued into the Twentieth Century.



Northern Discrimination



To escape discrimination in the South, many African Americana migrated to Northern cities. While discriminations and racism was not as violent in the North, it still existed. African Americans were forced into segregated neighborhoods, were not allowed to become members in labor unions, and were discriminated in various ways in the workforce.

