

What were the Jim Crow laws?

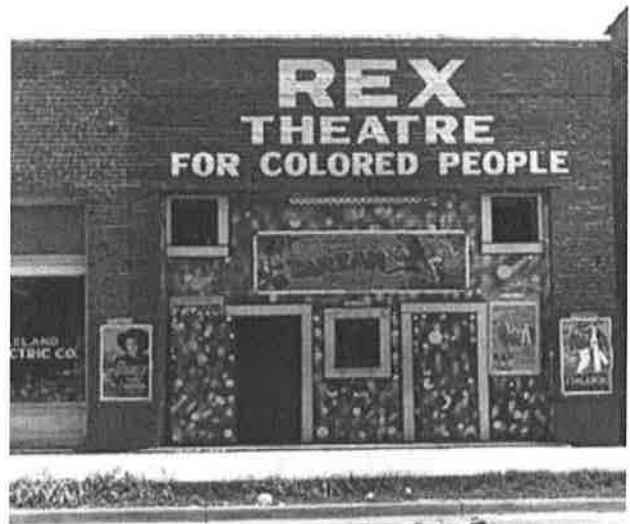
Jim Crow laws were laws in the South based on race. They enforced segregation between white people and black people in public places such as schools, transportation, restrooms, and restaurants. They also made it difficult for black people to vote.

When were the Jim Crow laws enforced?

After the Civil War there was a period in the South called the Reconstruction. During this time the federal government controlled the southern states. However, after the Reconstruction, the state governments took back over. Most Jim Crow laws were put in place in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of them were enforced until the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Why were they called "Jim Crow"?

The name "Jim Crow" comes from an African-American character in a song from 1832. After the song came out, the term "Jim Crow" was often used to refer to African-Americans and soon the segregation laws became known as "Jim Crow" laws.



Examples of Jim Crow Laws

Jim Crow laws were designed to keep black and white people apart. They touched on many aspects of society. Here are a few examples of laws in different states: Alabama - All passenger stations shall have separate waiting rooms and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races. Florida - The schools for white children and the schools for black children shall be conducted separately. Georgia - The officer in charge shall not bury any colored persons upon the ground set apart for the burial of white persons. Mississippi - Prison wardens shall see that the white convicts shall have separate apartments for both eating and sleeping from the negro convicts. There were also laws that tried to prevent black people from voting. These included poll taxes (a fee people had to pay to vote) and reading tests that people had to pass before they could vote.

Grandfather Clauses

In order to make sure that all white people could vote, many states enacted "grandfather" clauses into their voting laws. These laws stated that if your ancestors could vote before the Civil War, then you did not have to pass the reading test. This allowed for white people who could not read to vote. This is where the term "grandfather clause" comes from.

Black Codes

After the Civil War, many southern states created laws called Black Codes. These laws were even harsher than the Jim Crow laws. They tried to maintain something like slavery in the south even after the war. These laws made it difficult for black people to leave their current jobs and allowed them to be arrested for just about any reason. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment tried to put an end to the Black Codes.

Fighting Segregation

African-Americans began to organize, protest, and fight segregation and the Jim Crow laws in the 1900s. In 1954, the Supreme Court said that segregation of the schools was illegal in the famous *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Later, protests such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Birmingham Campaign, and the March on Washington brought the issue of Jim Crow to national attention.

The End of Jim Crow Laws

Jim Crow laws were made illegal with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Interesting Facts about Jim Crow Laws

The U.S. army was segregated until 1948 when President Harry Truman ordered the armed services desegregated. As many as 6 million African-Americans relocated to the North and West to get away from the Jim Crow laws of the south. This is sometimes called the Great Migration. Not all Jim Crow laws were in the south or were specific to black people. There were other racial laws in other states such as a law in California that made it illegal for people of Chinese ancestry to vote. Another California law made it illegal to sell alcohol to Indians. The phrase "separate but equal" was often used to justify segregation.

1. Where else in history can you find examples of laws similar to the Jim Crow Laws:

2. Which famous court case ruled that separate but equal was unconstitutional:

3. Research: Where in the world can you currently find examples of laws that are similar to the Jim Crow Laws (the UN website may be able to help you):

Civil Rights Movement - Jim Crow Laws

Test Quiz

Questions on this quiz are based on information from
Civil Rights Movement - Jim Crow Laws.

1. What was the purpose of the Jim Crow Laws?
 - a. Segregation
 - b. To keep black people and white people separate
 - c. To keep black people from voting
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above
2. What was it called when people were charged a fee to vote?
 - a. Voter registration
 - b. Poll tax
 - c. Voter subscription
 - d. Literacy test
 - e. Vote price
3. What rule allowed white people who couldn't pass the reading test to vote?
 - a. Grandfather clause
 - b. Literacy Act
 - c. Reading law
 - d. Pre-war clause
 - e. Old man law
4. What was it called when millions of African-Americans moved north to get away from the Jim Crow laws?
 - a. Underground Railroad
 - b. Big Move
 - c. Great Migration
 - d. Freedom March
 - e. Giant Exodus
5. What areas of society were affected by Jim Crow Laws?
 - a. Schools
 - b. Prisons
 - c. Restaurants
 - d. Transportation
 - e. All of the above
6. What laws in the South tried to maintain something like slavery even after the Civil War?
 - a. New Deal
 - b. Black codes
 - c. Intolerable Acts
 - d. African Acts
 - e. Slave codes
7. What Supreme Court ruling said that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional?

- a. Marbury v. Madison
- b. Dred Scott v. Sandford
- c. Brown v. Board of Education
- d. Plessy v. Ferguson
- e. Miranda v. Arizona

8. What president ordered that the army be desegregated?

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. Franklin Roosevelt
- c. John F. Kennedy
- d. Harry Truman
- e. Woodrow Wilson

9. True or False: Not all Jim Crow laws were in the South.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE
- c.
- d.
- e.

10. What law passed in 1964 helped put an end to Jim Crow Laws?

- a. Civil Rights Act
- b. Thirteenth Amendment
- c. Emancipation Proclamation
- d. New Deal
- e. Social Security Act

About this quiz: All the questions on this quiz are based on information that can be found on the [Civil Rights Movement - Jim Crow Laws](#) page at /history/civil_rights/jim_crow_laws.php.

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