

## African Americans

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**Congress of Racial Equality:** Civil Rights Organization founded in 1942 in Chicago, devoted to the advancement and achievement of rights by the U.S. African-American community.

**Cotton gin:** Invented by Eli Whitney in 1793, the cotton gin is a machine that separates the cotton fibers from the seed, increasing the production of cotton. As a result of its positive effects on this production, it encouraged a greater demand of slave labor.

**Fugitive Slave Laws:** Passed by the U.S. Congress from the years 1793-1850, they favored the return of fugitive slaves from one state to the other.

**Harlem Renaissance:** Relevant cultural movement which originated in Harlem, NY, in the 1920s and gave voice to the African-American community. Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, Nella Larsen, etc., are among its representatives.

**Jim Crow Laws:** Enacted in the United States between 1876-1965, they encouraged the segregation of blacks. The origins of their name date back to 1832, when actor Thomas Rice, painted his face in black, and created the character of Jim Crow, and performed a caricature of blacks.

**KKK:** A White supremacist and nationalist group which originated in the 1860s in the Southern States of the United States.

**Middle Passage:** The stage of the triangular trade which transported people and goods between Africa, America and Europe. The terms also makes reference to the way the slaves were transported in the slave ships to America.

**Montgomery Bus Boycott:** Event that originated in Rosa Parks refusal to give up her seat in a bus in Montgomery in 1955. It ended with the declaration of the unconstitutionality of the segregation of buses in Alabama.

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP):** Created in 1909, its worked for the achievement of equality of rights for all people, regardless the race or status.

**Segregation:** separation of human beings because of different reasons. Racial segregation encourages the separation in schools and other institutions because of color of skin.

**The Color Line:** Term created and first used by Frederick Douglass in 1851, which deploys racial segregation.

**Voting Rights Act:** 1965. Law which permitted black citizens to vote in the United States.

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Other sources:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/timeline/index.html> Slavery and the making of America (pbs) timeline and resources

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/slav\\_fact.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/slav_fact.cfm) Slavery- facts

## Native Americans:

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**Dispossession:** the expulsion of someone (such as a tenant) from the possession of land by process of law. In the case of Native Americans, it refers to the eviction and subsequent appropriation of their lands as a result of the movement West of the first American colonies.

**Reservation:** Piece of land managed by Native American tribes. Reservations were created as a result of the process of dispossession and subsequent relocation of Native American tribes.

**Department of Indian Affairs.** Agency of the Federal Government which is in charge of the administration and management of reservation lands.

**Dawes Act:** Signed in 1887, the law permitted the division of Indian tribal land and its subsequent offering to individual Indians.

**Trail of Tears:** Removal and relocation of several southeastern tribes to Oklahoma, as a result of the Indian Removal Act. The forced movement provoked a great suffering to the tribe, and many Indians died on the way to Oklahoma.

**Indian Removal Act:** Signed in 1830, it paved the way to painful historical episodes such as the Trail of Tears.

**Sand Creek:** One of the most painful episodes of the Indian Wars, 1864. 700 men attacked a Cheyenne town, killing most of its inhabitants, mostly women and children.

**National Congress of American Indians:** Formed in 1944, the institution Works for the achievement of full civil rights for Indians, and in response to the termination policies of the government.

**American Indian Movement:** Civil rights movement created in 1968, which fought for the sovereignty of Native Americans.

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Other sources:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/> We Shall Remain

[http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/events/1900\\_1917.htm](http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/events/1900_1917.htm) New Perspectives on the West