

May ★ ★ ★ ★



US Society 1919 - 29:
Chapter 9: Old Intolerance:
Black Americans and the KKK



Learning Steps:



- Explore some context around the treatment of Black Americans.
- Examine reasons why the KKK became more popular in the USA in the 1920s.
- Discover why this popularity was shortlived.
- Make links between other topics you have studied and this one.

Learning Gain

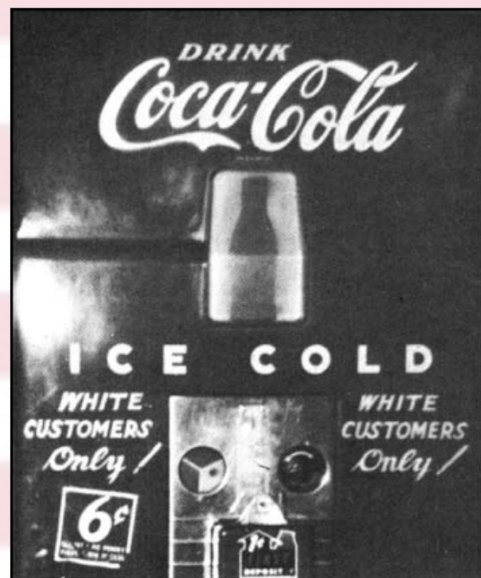
Will be able to summarise the key points regarding racism towards Black Americans and combine prior learning to show links between immigration and the rise of the KKK and how this all led to the intolerance of the 1920s.



Reflect and Connect

What intolerance towards black Americans have you already learned about.

Based upon your work in previous lessons - answer the question above giving examples.



You have five minutes to complete your task - you limey learners!



Five Mins

Remember:



Main



Photograph from Bettmann/Corbis

Main



Strange Fruit 1931

Songwriters: WIGGINS, DWAYNE P. / PEABODY
LEWIS

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

[Lyrics from <http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/billie+holliday>

Pastoral scene of the gallant south,
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh,
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck,
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck,
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop,
Here is a strange and bitter crop.



Billie Holiday

Main



What can you learn about the treatment of Black Americans from the photograph and my song?



Create a spider diagram to demonstrate your answer to this question from Billie. Feel free to add information from other lessons.

Main



So why did the KKK become so popular?

They were extremists who believed they were on a moral crusade to save the USA.



They believed that only WASPS were true Americans.

White Anglo Saxon Protestants who had come from Northern Europe.



They condemned all the following:

Jews, Catholics, immigrants from southern Europe especially Italians, and eastern Europe especially Poles, from Asia and particularly Blacks.



So why did the KKK become so popular?

During the 1920s KKK membership grew from 100 000 to 5 million. WHY?



- members were poor whites who felt that their jobs were under threat from black and immigrant workers willing to work for less money.
- however in the South the KKK was used to maintain the large black population in a position of subjugation and fear. This was helped by elements of law enforcement and politicians.

Main



So why did the KKK become less popular?



Photograph from Detmanc/Corbis

Images like this helped to make the actions of the KKK more widely known and disgust people.

High profile successful legal victories over the KKK like the DC Stephenson trial also made people ashamed to be connected to the KKK.

Its membership and influence fell massively after 1925, especially in the northern states.

Plenary



What links are there between Prohibition, Immigration, Rising Intolerance, and the KKK?



*Learning objectives:
I know I will have made progress in my learning today if I can...*

Review your progress today, explain whether you think you have made "legitimate" progress in this lesson.

