Beyond Red Summer

Trace causes and violence from 1919 into the 1920s

SS24.US2.3e "Trace the causes and course of Red Summer and subsequent violence into the 1920s, including the Tulsa Race Massacre."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline conditions that made violence more likely, circle each immediate spark, and number the four local outbreaks in chronological order.

A Summer That Did Not End

1 After World War I, Black veterans returned expecting the rights they had defended abroad. The Great Migration had brought many Black families to northern cities, where competition for jobs and crowded housing fed white resentment. In the South, segregation and efforts to keep Black people from voting maintained a long history of violence. White newspapers sometimes spread false or unverified claims about Black people, and police often failed to protect Black residents. These conditions did not make attacks inevitable, but they gave rumors and local disputes the power to ignite mob violence. The wave of attacks in 1919 became known as Red Summer.

2 In July 1919, rumors that a Black man had attacked a white woman helped set off days of violence in Washington, D.C. White mobs attacked Black people on the streets, while some Black residents fought back; officials struggled to stop the attacks. Later that month in Chicago, a Black teenager, Eugene Williams, drowned after drifting across an unofficial color line at a Lake Michigan beach. Witnesses said a white man had thrown stones, but police refused to arrest the suspect. Anger over that decision sparked days of fighting. White mobs attacked Black neighborhoods, and the violence left 38 people dead, Black and white.

3 The violence did not end in 1919. In May 1921, an unverified accusation involving Dick Rowland, a Black teenager, and a white elevator operator appeared in Tulsa, Oklahoma, amid sensational newspaper coverage. A white mob gathered, and armed Black residents went to the courthouse to prevent a lynching. After a confrontation, white attackers invaded Greenwood, a prosperous Black neighborhood, killing residents and burning homes and businesses. Local authorities failed to protect Greenwood; some officials detained Black residents instead. In 1923, a disputed accusation against a Black man preceded a white mob's destruction of the Black community of Rosewood, Florida. Rumor, racial inequality, and inadequate protection linked these episodes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did conditions in northern cities and the South make racial violence more likely before 1919?

2. Trace how violence began and developed in Washington, D.C., in July 1919.

3. How did the police response after Eugene Williams drowned contribute to the course of violence in Chicago?

4. How did the trigger and outcome in Rosewood resemble those in Tulsa?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum exhibit label arguing why Red Summer was not isolated to 1919. Discuss Chicago, Tulsa, and Rosewood in chronological order, identifying one recurring cause and one difference in how the violence unfolded.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond Red Summer

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.3e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline conditions that made violence more likely, circle each immediate spark, and number the four local outbreaks in chronological order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did conditions in northern cities and the South make racial violence more likely before 1919?	**In northern cities, job competition and crowded housing fed white resentment. In the South, segregation and efforts to prevent Black voting sustained racial inequality and violence.**
2	Trace how violence began and developed in Washington, D.C., in July 1919.	**Rumors of an attack on a white woman helped set off violence. White mobs attacked Black people in the streets, some Black residents fought back, and officials struggled to stop the attacks.**
3	How did the police response after Eugene Williams drowned contribute to the course of violence in Chicago?	**Police refused to arrest the man witnesses said had thrown stones. Anger over that decision sparked days of fighting.**
4	How did the trigger and outcome in Rosewood resemble those in Tulsa?	**In both places, a disputed or unverified accusation preceded a white mob's destruction of a Black community.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Red Summer was a wave, not a single event. In Chicago in 1919, police refusal to arrest a suspect after Eugene Williams drowned helped turn anger into days of deadly fighting. In Tulsa in 1921, armed Black residents went to a courthouse to prevent a lynching before white attackers invaded and burned Greenwood. In Rosewood in 1923, a disputed accusation preceded another white mob's destruction of a Black community. These outbreaks began differently, but racial inequality and failures of protection repeatedly put Black communities at risk. The violence continued beyond the summer that gave the wave its name.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of the causes and sequence. For the exhibit label, look for chronological order, a recurring cause, and a difference explicitly supported by the passage.