

Rights Under Pressure

Trace legal and violent barriers to equal citizenship in Georgia.

SS8H7.b "Analyze how rights were denied to African Americans or Blacks through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence, including the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase that names or describes each of the four methods that denied rights: Jim Crow laws, the Plessy decision, disenfranchisement, and racial violence. In the margin, number the methods 1 through 4 to track how each limited equality, voting, or safety.

Barriers to Equal Citizenship

- ① After Reconstruction, Georgia and other Southern states built a system called Jim Crow. These state and local laws separated Black and white people in schools, trains, waiting rooms, parks, and other public places. Separation limited where Black citizens could travel, learn, work, and receive services. In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Plessy v. Ferguson that racial segregation could be legal under the idea of separate but equal. In practice, facilities for Black people were usually unequal, and the ruling gave governments support for more segregation.
- ② Disenfranchisement, or the denial of voting rights, weakened Black citizens' political power. Georgia and other Southern states used poll taxes, which required voters to pay money, and literacy tests, which officials could give unfairly. Georgia also used a white primary, allowing only white voters to choose party candidates. Because the Democratic Party controlled most Georgia elections, being excluded from the primary often meant having little voice in the final election. These barriers made it harder for Black citizens to elect leaders who might challenge segregation or protect their rights.
- ③ Racial violence reinforced these legal barriers through fear and terror. In Atlanta in September 1906, false newspaper stories accusing Black men of attacks on white women helped inflame a white mob. Over several days, the mob beat and killed Black residents, attacked Black businesses, and pulled Black passengers from streetcars. Historians estimate that at least 25 Black people were killed. The 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre showed that violence, as well as laws and voting restrictions, denied Black Georgians safety, political power, and equal access to public life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Jim Crow laws limit Black citizens' daily lives? Use two examples from the passage.

2 How did the Plessy v. Ferguson decision help segregation continue?

3 How did poll taxes, unfair literacy tests, and white primaries deny Black citizens political power?

4 What does the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre show about the connection between racial violence and the denial of rights?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a five-sentence explanation showing how at least three methods worked together to deny rights to Black Georgians. State a claim, use a specific example from the passage for each method, and explain the effect on equality, voting, or safety.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase that names or describes each of the four methods that denied rights: Jim Crow laws, the Plessy decision, disenfranchisement, and racial violence. In the margin, number the methods 1 through 4 to track how each limited equality, voting, or safety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Jim Crow laws limit Black citizens' daily lives? Use two examples from the passage.	They separated Black people from white people in public places, limiting access to places such as schools, trains, waiting rooms, parks, and services.
2	How did the Plessy v. Ferguson decision help segregation continue?	The decision said racial segregation could be legal under separate but equal, giving governments support for more segregation even though Black facilities were usually unequal.
3	How did poll taxes, unfair literacy tests, and white primaries deny Black citizens political power?	They made it difficult or impossible for Black citizens to vote or participate in choosing candidates, reducing their ability to elect leaders who could challenge segregation.
4	What does the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre show about the connection between racial violence and the denial of rights?	It shows that mob violence threatened Black Georgians' safety and used fear to reinforce legal segregation and voting restrictions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Black Georgians faced a connected system that denied equal citizenship. Jim Crow laws separated them in public places, limiting daily access to services. The Plessy decision gave governments legal support to continue segregation. Poll taxes, unfair literacy tests, and white primaries reduced Black political power by blocking votes. During the Atlanta Race Massacre, mob violence threatened Black residents' safety and reinforced the power of the system.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each method to a denied right. For the open response, look for a clear claim, evidence about at least three methods, and an explanation of how the methods reinforced one another.