

Three Paths Forward

Compare how three leaders expanded opportunity in the New South.

SS8H7.c "Explain the roles of Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and Alonzo Herndon in advancement of the rights of African Americans or Blacks in the New South Era."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action taken by each leader, then circle words that explain how that action expanded rights or opportunities for African Americans.

Leadership in the New South

- ① Booker T. Washington believed that economic strength and practical education could help African Americans build security in the New South. Born enslaved, he studied at Hampton Institute and became the leader of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1881. At Tuskegee, students learned academic subjects and trades such as farming, construction, and teaching. Washington urged Black communities to develop businesses, property, and job skills. His approach created opportunities, although he was criticized for accepting segregation and not demanding full political rights immediately.
- ② W. E. B. Du Bois argued that African Americans should demand equal rights without delay. A scholar and writer, he helped organize the Niagara Movement in 1905 and later co-founded the NAACP in 1909. Through speeches, articles, and organizing, Du Bois challenged segregation, discrimination, and efforts to deny Black citizens the vote. He supported higher education for a group he called the "Talented Tenth," but he also pressed for civil rights for all African Americans. His strategy differed sharply from Washington's gradual approach.
- ③ Alonzo Herndon used business success to expand economic opportunity in Atlanta. After starting as a barber, he invested in property and purchased a small insurance company in 1908. Under his leadership, the company became Atlanta Life Insurance Company, one of the nation's leading Black-owned businesses. It provided insurance to Black customers who often faced exclusion from white companies and created professional jobs for Black workers. Herndon also supported community institutions. His success showed that Black entrepreneurship could build wealth, serve communities, and challenge limits imposed by discrimination.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Booker T. Washington use Tuskegee Institute to advance opportunities for African Americans?

2 How did W. E. B. Du Bois's approach to civil rights differ from Washington's approach?

3 Give two ways Atlanta Life Insurance Company advanced opportunities for Black Americans under Alonzo Herndon.

4 Which leader most directly challenged efforts to deny Black citizens the vote? Which two leaders mainly built opportunity through education or business?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing the three leaders. Include one specific action by each leader, explain how their methods differed, and state one goal they shared.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one action taken by each leader, then circle words that explain how that action expanded rights or opportunities for African Americans. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Booker T. Washington use Tuskegee Institute to advance opportunities for African Americans?	He led Tuskegee Institute, where students learned academic subjects and practical trades that could help them gain job skills, property, and economic security.
2	How did W. E. B. Du Bois's approach to civil rights differ from Washington's approach?	Du Bois demanded equal civil and political rights without delay, while Washington emphasized practical education and economic growth and did not demand full political rights immediately.
3	Give two ways Atlanta Life Insurance Company advanced opportunities for Black Americans under Alonzo Herndon.	It provided insurance to Black customers excluded by many white companies, and it created professional jobs for Black workers.
4	Which leader most directly challenged efforts to deny Black citizens the vote? Which two leaders mainly built opportunity through education or business?	W. E. B. Du Bois directly challenged efforts to deny Black citizens the vote. Booker T. Washington built opportunity through education, and Alonzo Herndon built opportunity through business.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Booker T. Washington led Tuskegee Institute, where practical education prepared students for work and ownership. W. E. B. Du Bois helped found the NAACP and demanded immediate voting and civil rights. Alonzo Herndon built Atlanta Life Insurance Company, which served Black customers and employed Black workers. Although they used education, activism, and business differently, all three worked to expand African American power and opportunity.

Accept accurate descriptions of each leader's distinct method and its effect on African American opportunity or rights. For the open response, require all three leaders, one accurate action for each, a comparison of methods, and a shared goal.