Greenwood and Beyond

Trace the effects of segregation, resistance, and racial violence in Oklahoma.

OKH.C.6.3 "Examine the evolution of race relations in Oklahoma. Analyze the intent and effect of Jim Crow laws initiated by the passage of Senate Bill 1..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two policies and their effects, circle one example of community growth, and write C beside a cause and E beside an effect of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

Oklahoma: Growth and Injustice

1. At statehood in 1907, Oklahoma's legislature passed Senate Bill 1, requiring separate railroad cars and waiting rooms for Black and white passengers. This Jim Crow law enforced segregation in public travel. A 1910 grandfather clause excused voters from a literacy test if they or their ancestors could vote before 1866, excluding most Black voters from that exception. In 1915, the Supreme Court ruled the clause unconstitutional in Guinn v. United States. Striking it down did not end other barriers to voting.

2. Despite discrimination, African American communities grew. In Tulsa's Greenwood District, Black entrepreneurs built stores, restaurants, and professional offices, earning the neighborhood the name "Black Wall Street." Segregation restricted where residents could shop or work, yet money spent at local businesses helped the district thrive. During the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan also gained power in Oklahoma. Its members used threats and violence to intimidate Black residents and others. Greenwood's success and the Klan's rise show that community growth did not mean racial hostility had disappeared.

3. In May 1921, a disputed accusation involving a Black teenager, Dick Rowland, and a white elevator operator, Sarah Page, drew a white crowd to the Tulsa courthouse. Black residents came to prevent a possible lynching. After a confrontation, white mobs attacked Greenwood, killing residents and burning homes and businesses. The Tulsa Race Massacre left thousands homeless and destroyed wealth that families had built over years. Survivors faced obstacles to rebuilding, including rejected insurance claims. Its losses shaped later generations, even as residents worked to rebuild Greenwood.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Senate Bill 1 require, and what was its intended effect on public travel?

2. How did the grandfather clause target Black voters, and what did the Supreme Court decide?

3. How did Greenwood's growth and the Klan's rise show different sides of race relations in Oklahoma?

4. What led to the attack on Greenwood, and how did the attack affect families beyond 1921?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption explaining why rebuilding Greenwood could not restore everything lost in 1921. Connect your claim to one earlier sign of community strength and one government action in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Greenwood and Beyond

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.6.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two policies and their effects, circle one example of community growth, and write C beside a cause and E beside an effect of the Tulsa Race Massacre. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Senate Bill 1 require, and what was its intended effect on public travel?	**It required separate railroad cars and waiting rooms for Black and white passengers, enforcing segregation in public travel.**
2	How did the grandfather clause target Black voters, and what did the Supreme Court decide?	**It excused voters from a literacy test based on voting rights before 1866, an exception most Black voters could not claim. The Court ruled the clause unconstitutional, but other voting barriers remained.**
3	How did Greenwood's growth and the Klan's rise show different sides of race relations in Oklahoma?	**Black entrepreneurs built a thriving business district, while the Klan used threats and violence to intimidate Black residents and others.**
4	What led to the attack on Greenwood, and how did the attack affect families beyond 1921?	**A disputed accusation drew a white crowd to the courthouse, and Black residents came to prevent a possible lynching. White mobs then attacked Greenwood, destroying homes, businesses, and wealth that could have supported later generations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Greenwood's businesses show how Black Tulsans built opportunity despite the segregation required by Senate Bill 1 in railroad travel. Its shops and offices supported a thriving community before 1921. When white mobs burned homes and businesses, families lost years of accumulated wealth. Rebuilding could restore buildings, but it could not quickly replace that wealth or erase the harm to later generations.

Accept other supported links between a government action, Greenwood's growth, and the massacre's lasting effects. Students should distinguish the Supreme Court's ruling against the grandfather clause from an end to all voting barriers.