Fear and Resistance

Racial violence and Black leadership in the 1920s

USH.C.4.1.F "Describe the rising racial tensions in American society, resulting in the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, lynchings, violence typified by the Tulsa Race Massacre, and the continued efforts to disenfranchise African Americans..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions that fueled racial tensions, circle three forms of intimidation or violence, and number two responses by African American leaders. Use your marks to trace how people faced and challenged injustice.

A Climate of Fear, A Movement to Respond

1 During World War I, many African Americans moved from the South to northern cities seeking jobs and greater freedom. Competition for work and housing, along with deeply rooted racism, fueled hostility. In 1919, white mobs attacked Black communities in several cities during a period called the Red Summer. The Ku Klux Klan, revived in 1915, exploited this climate of hostility. It grew in the 1920s by spreading fear through threats and violence against African Americans, Catholics, Jews, and immigrants.

2 In the South, officials continued to block African Americans from voting through poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation. Lynching, the killing of people by mobs without a trial, spread racial terror across the country, especially in the South. In 1921, a white mob attacked Greenwood, a prosperous Black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Attackers burned homes and businesses and killed residents. Many survivors lost their homes and livelihoods. Tulsa showed how mob violence could destroy lives and a community's hard-won economic progress.

3 African American leaders responded in different ways. The NAACP investigated lynchings and pushed for federal laws against them while challenging barriers to voting. Marcus Garvey organized the Universal Negro Improvement Association, which promoted Black pride, economic independence, and global Black unity. He urged people of African descent to build their own institutions rather than wait for acceptance from white society. Garvey drew large crowds, though African Americans did not all agree on his plans, including his call for migration to Africa.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the climate of racial hostility help the revived Ku Klux Klan grow?

2. How did voting barriers and lynchings each restrict African Americans' freedom?

3. What does the attack on Greenwood show about the effects of racial violence on a community?

4. How did Garvey's response to injustice differ from the NAACP's response?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about racial tensions and African American responses in this period. Connect one cause of tension to an act of violence, describe its effects, and contrast Garvey's approach with the NAACP's.

ANSWER KEY

Fear and Resistance

HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.4.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions that fueled racial tensions, circle three forms of intimidation or violence, and number two responses by African American leaders. Use your marks to trace how people faced and challenged injustice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the climate of racial hostility help the revived Ku Klux Klan grow?	**The Klan exploited existing hostility and spread fear through threats and violence.**
2	How did voting barriers and lynchings each restrict African Americans' freedom?	**Poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation blocked voting. Lynchings spread terror through mob killings.**
3	What does the attack on Greenwood show about the effects of racial violence on a community?	**The attack killed residents, destroyed homes and businesses, and wiped out economic progress.**
4	How did Garvey's response to injustice differ from the NAACP's response?	**Garvey promoted Black pride and independent institutions. The NAACP pursued laws against lynching and challenged voting barriers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Deeply rooted racism helped fuel hostility toward African Americans after World War I. In 1921, a white mob attacked Tulsa's Greenwood neighborhood, killing residents and burning homes and businesses. Marcus Garvey urged Black communities to build their own institutions and promoted economic independence. The NAACP instead pushed for laws against lynching and challenged barriers to voting.

Accept other accurate connections grounded in the passage. Responses should distinguish the Klan's threats, mob violence, and voting restrictions without treating them as the same action.