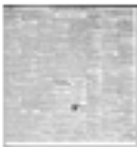


Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Grade 6

Standard(s) or Objectives: [CCSS.RI.6.2- Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Library of Congress Resources:



Jim Crow and Segregation. The Washington Times. February 22, 1915, HOME EDITION

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026749/1915-02-22/ed-1/seq-6/>

Topic Background:

In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation symbolically established a national intent to eradicate slavery in the United States. Decades of state and federal legislation around civil rights followed.

Excerpted from: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/civil-rights/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf

Source(s) Used:

This source is a review to the editor of THE TIMES: Wants “Jim Crow Law All Over the United States. **The Washington times, February 22, 1915.**

Answer Key:

Question 1: The student is likely to select the 4th underlined phrase and provide valid reasons to explain why he/she chose that one.

Directions: In the following excerpt, circle which of the 4 underlined sentences best represent the main idea of the article and explain why. Write your justification below the excerpt. (CCSS.RI.6.2)

Review to the editor of THE TIMES about the article by J.F. N. on the Jim Crow Law. (Excerpt)

I read with interest the article written by “J. F. N” to the Times Mail Bag, in which he wishes to isolate the colored population from the white in Washington, and then does not advocate the passing of “Jim Crow” Law in the District of Columbia.

I agree with him entirely on the segregation Law, but disagree as regards the Jim Crow” Law. The colored race is no longer “looked down” on, and by passing this Jim Crow” Law and giving them as good cars and service as is given the white people, it will then give that race the opportunity to develop more racial pride and distinction.

Some people think it is a disgrace to be colored, and think the passing of this Jim Crow” Law would mean a downward trend of this race. This is no longer the thought of an educated person. [...] the colored people should pull for this law and after passing it, try to be rivals and not equals of the white race.

I have talked with several well-educated colored men on this question, and was surprise to find that they agreed entirely with me, and a few of them went to such an extend as wanting a separate part of the United States as their home, as was given the Indians.

I and every other person, whether white or black, provided they have enough pride, should pull for this Jim Crow” Law not only in the District of Columbia, but all over the United States.
W. W. J.

Why does the sentence you circled best represent the article’s main idea?
