

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.3: Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5: Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



“Springfield in the Throes of Race War; Troops Ordered Out.” *Cairo Bulletin*. 1908

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93055779/1908-08-15/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1908&index=15&rows=20&words=mob+Springfield&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Illinois&date2=1908&proxtext=Springfield+mob&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

Topic Background:

Springfield Race Riot, (August 1908), in U.S. history, brutal two-day assault by several thousand white citizens on the black community of Springfield, Ill. Triggered by the transfer of a black prisoner charged with rape (an accusation later withdrawn), the riot was symptomatic of fears of racial equality in North and South alike. Almost the entire Illinois state militia was required to quell the frenzy of the mob, which shot innocent people, burned homes, looted stores, and mutilated and lynched two elderly blacks. Afterward, the population seemed to show no remorse, and some persons even advocated the Southern political strategy of disenfranchisement as a means of keeping blacks “in their place.” In a moving account of the riot, called “Race War in the North” (Sept. 3, 1908), Southern white journalist William English Walling called for a revival of the abolitionist spirit to stem the tide of such shocking occurrences. Fearing further degeneration in race relations, white liberals were inspired by the article to join with blacks in launching the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Excerpted from: <http://www.britannica.com/event/Springfield-Race-Riot>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment includes excerpts from a newspaper article on the riot, entitled “Springfield in the Throes of Race War; Troops Ordered Out,” and printed in the *Cairo Bulletin*. The article ran on August 15th, 1908, the second (and last) day of the riot, and focuses on the brutal treatment towards African Americans in the city and the destruction of their homes and businesses that occurred on August 14th.

Answer Key:

Question 1: A

Question2: C

“Springfield in the Throes of Race War; Troops Ordered Out.” Cairo Bulletin. 1908

[Excerpt]

A threatening mob bent on wreaking vengeance on the negro inhabitants of Springfield because of an assault committed today by a negro on a white woman is raging through the streets tonight beating negroes and disregarding the soldiers of troop B, first cavalry, ordered out Gov. Deneen to preserve order.

The rioters who gathered in front of the jail following the incarceration of Richardson were enraged by a ruse practised by the sheriff in removing Richardson from the jail.

Negroes in various parts of the town have been attacked by a mob and in two instances negroes have turned with considerable effect upon their assailants. In one mix up a trooper attempted to separate the combatants and was nearly overwhelmed by disorderly persons who were in pursuit of several negroes. A call for help brought several other cavalymen to the scene but they were all disarmed and their guns carried away by the rioters.

Finding the negroes were gone [from the jail] the mob amused itself for a time by looting the negro resorts in Washington street. The amusement of the rioters was tragedy for the negroes, many of whom were roughly handled and beaten with pieces of their own furniture. A white man and his son, names unknown, were shot and injured, supposedly by negroes. This encounter further enraged the members of the mob and they began a general search for negroes wherever they could be found.

Questions:

- 1) How does the information in lines 1-4 relate to events in lines 12-14? (CCSS-RH6-8.3)
 - a. The rioters attacked African Americans as a result of the alleged assault of a white woman.
 - b. The rioters attacked troopers as a result of Richardson being removed from the jail.
 - c. African Americans attacked rioters who were looting their homes.
 - d. African Americans attacked troopers who were not protecting them from the white rioters.

- 2) How do the details about the troopers in lines 8-11 contribute to the development of the article? (CCSS-RH6-8.5)
 - a. These lines show that the African American community was overwhelmed by the rioters.
 - b. These lines show that the rioters respected the authority of the troopers.
 - c. These lines show that the rioters were not scared of the troopers.
 - d. These lines show that the troopers did not want to be in Springfield.