

Separate, But Equal: Plessy vs. Ferguson

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Subject: Social Studies – South Carolina History (Eighth Grade)

Duration : 60 Minutes

Description: Students will be able to identify the principle of ‘separate but equal’ doctrine which led to Jim Crow laws.

Standards: Standard 8-5: The student will understand the impact of Reconstruction, industrialization, and Progressivism on society and politics in South Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Enduring Understanding

During the periods of **Reconstruction**, industrial expansion, and the Progressive movement, South Carolina searched for ways to revitalize its economy while maintaining its traditional society. To understand South Carolina’s experience as representative of its region and the United States during these time periods, the student will utilize the knowledge and skills set forth in the following indicators:

- 8.5.1 Analyze the development of Reconstruction policy and its impact in South Carolina, including Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction, the role of **black codes**, and the Freedmen’s Bureau.

Objectives:

1. Students will summarize the case ‘Plessy vs. Ferguson.
2. Analyze the impact of the case on society.
3. Reflect using personal views on how the case is connected to the student.

Materials: Internet, computer, and handouts.

Warm up Activity: Have the students answer the following question:

1. A man and a woman apply for a job as a shoe sales person. What would the employer have to do to treat these two applicants equally?
2. Two students live in the same school district. The students are the same age, but they are different races. What does the school district have to do to treat these two students equally?
3. Discuss the student answers.

Activities:

1. Power point of case: WWW.slideshare.net/mradrian777/plessy-v-ferguson (suggested website)
2. Handout of the case study with questions. (www.streetlaw.org/en/Page/423/Background_Summary_Questions_)
3. Reflections: Have students write how the case led to “separate but not equal” doctrine which became “Jim Crow” laws.