

# Lesson Plan 22 - West Virginia Civil Rights and Jim Crow Laws

## Objective(s) for the Lesson

- SS.0.08.05.11 Research and critique the role of ethnic and racial minorities, men, women and children in West Virginia who have made significant contributions to our history in the public and/or private sectors; choose the person you believe made the most significant contribution and explain your choice (e.g., statehood, abolition, education, industry, literature, government).
- SS.0.08.05.12 Critique the significance of historical experience and of geographical, social and economic factors that have helped to shape both West Virginia and American society.

## Time Frame

90 minutes

## Title(s) and Page Number(s) in the West Virginia Encyclopedia which provide content background for the teacher

- African-American Education p. 3  
African-American Heritage p. 4  
Integration p. 363

## Title(s) and Page Number(s) in the West Virginia Encyclopedia which provide instructional opportunities for the students

(optional)

Same as above.

## Materials Needed

- The *West Virginia Encyclopedia*  
Computer lab with internet access  
Colored pencils or markers

## Procedures/Strategies

• The teacher (or a student) introduces the topic by reading to the class the opening paragraph from the “Integration” entry found on page 363 of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Class members will use previous knowledge and sentence context to brainstorm as a group in order to determine the meaning of the following key terms or concepts:

- “... abolished slavery as a condition of admission into the Union.”  
“... repressive “Jim Crow” days following Reconstruction ...”  
“... wave of lynchings that swept much of the country ...”  
“... blacks attained political clout ...”  
“... in public education and in key areas of public accommodation West Virginians were segregated by race ...”

- Reread the last sentence in the paragraph and then ask students to infer what is meant by the term “Jim Crow” laws.
- Students will use the internet, the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* entries listed above, and other text materials to research answers to “The Fight for Civil Rights: Jim Crow Laws in West Virginia” handout.
- Suggested website: [www.jimcrowhistory.org](http://www.jimcrowhistory.org)

### **Assessment**

A point total can be assessed for this assignment. Upon completion of the handout class members can discuss answers and explain illustrations.

### **Supporting Resources**

Text: *West Virginia: A History of An American State* p. 394

## The Fight for Civil Rights Jim Crow Laws in West Virginia

1. What were “Jim Crow” laws?
2. List five examples of public facilities that were affected by Jim Crow laws.
3. How many Jim Crow laws (statutes) did West Virginia have?
4. One WV law dealt with “miscegenation.” What does this term mean?
5. When was the last Jim Crow law passed in West Virginia? What did this law prohibit?

Read the following quote taken from the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, African-American Heritage entry (p. 5):

After the U.S. Supreme Court issued the 1954 school desegregation decision, “much was lost as the tradition of all-black public (school) institutions gradually came to an end. Local school boards closed one black high school after another, bringing to an end one of the major public institutions in black life during the era of Jim Crow. As R. Charles Byers, professor of education at West Virginia State University, states, the fall of black high schools was a ‘heart-breaking’ development.”

Thought question: As a teacher at a traditionally all-black college, why would Professor Byers feel that integration was a ‘heart-breaking’ development for black high school students?

On reverse side: Compare West Virginia’s Jim Crow laws with Virginia’s Jim Crow laws; illustrate two laws that were the same in both states and one law that differed. Write a caption that explains each illustration. Color.



