



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Curriculum

EFLA TEACHING GUIDE

UNIT 7: The Great Migration & Harlem Renaissance (1919 – 1935)

CLASS 4: Black Wall Street – The Tulsa “Riot” of 1921

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- ✓ Recount the true story of “Black Wall Street” and its destruction, as told by eyewitness accounts from both blacks and whites
- ✓ Identify how the local, city and state governments and media of Oklahoma collaborated in the Tulsa Massacre and its cover-up”
- ✓ Understand the role the Ku Klux Klan played in the Tulsa Massacre of 1921

MATERIALS

- EFLA Quiz 7.4

UNIT 7 CLASS 4: QUIZ 7.4 (with answer key)

(35 – 45 minutes)

Instructions

- Distribute EFLA Document: Quiz 7.4 (below), which is based on the homework assignment from the previous class. Give students approximately 15-20 minutes to complete the quiz. The answers are provided. Some answers may vary.
- Once the quiz is complete, call on student volunteers to provide the answers to each of the questions. Facilitate a class discussion by reviewing the answers together. Allow students the opportunity to grade their own quiz. Collect and review graded quizzes for accuracy and place in student folder.

1. What incident (s) sparked the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921? What were the real motives behind the Tulsa Race Riot?

There were two primary incidents that sparked the Tulsa Race Riot: 1. The release of Birth of a Nation, a movie that glorified the Ku Klux Klan as protecting virtuous white women from brute, fiendish black rapists and more directly 2. The false claim of attempted rape by a white elevator attendant.

The real motive was white jealousy. Whites who returned from WWI had little opportunity in Tulsa, yet the black community was thriving and prosperous. Whites saw this as intolerable and were seething with envy. Blacks are supposed to be poor and whites wealthy. Yet the opposite was true in Tulsa. The Tulsa Massacre was sparked by this jealousy.

2. What role did the local sheriff play in the Tulsa Riot of 1921? Who was responsible for ordering the air bombing “Black Wall Street?”

The local sheriff deputized white men and gave them legal authority to shoot and kill any black person they saw.

3. What did local authorities do to suppress the knowledge of the Massacre?

The telephone lines were cut, the telegraph lines were cut, and the railroad service was blockaded. No outsiders could get in or find out what happened.

- 4. What did the Oklahoma government do to the aid to blacks that was coming from other states? What lie did “embarrassed” city officials and clergymen present to the world regarding aid to blacks after the Massacre?**

The local government blocked all outside aid coming in to support blacks. “Embarrassed” city officials lied, saying that aid was coming in and that the “riot” was under control.

- 5. What happened with the trial of Dick Rowland, the man responsible for attempting to rape the white elevator worker that sparked the riot?**

Dick Rowland was acquitted of all charges. No one ever heard from him again.

- 6. How was the Massacre suppressed? How were blacks confined after the Massacre?**

Martial Law was declared and the Ku Klux Klan dispersed back into their neighborhoods and became part of the civilian population. Detention areas were set-up throughout the city and every black person had to fill-out an identification card and have a white person vouch for them and approved by a local official. If approved, the black person was given a ribbon that said “Police Protection.” He/she had to wear this ribbon at all times. If not you would be immediately arrested. No one left the detention centers without being vouched for by a white person.



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QUIZ 7.4

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What incident (s) sparked the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921? What were the real motives behind the Tulsa Race Riot?
2. What role did the local sheriff play in the Tulsa Riot of 1921? Who was responsible for ordering the air bombing “Black Wall Street?”
3. What did the Oklahoma government do to the aid to blacks that was coming from other states? What lie did “embarrassed” city officials and clergymen present to the world regarding aid to blacks after the Massacre?
4. What happened with the trial of Dick Rowland, the man responsible for attempting to rape the white elevator worker that sparked the riot?
5. How was the Massacre suppressed? How were blacks confined after the Massacre?