1. When the Social Security Act was signed into law in 1935, it excluded agricultural and domestic workers. (**True** or False) This Social Security Act, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on August 14, 1935, aimed to create a federal safety net for the elderly, unemployed, and disadvantaged. A sizable percentage of the excluded workers were African Americans, leading to claims of racial bias in the initial design of the Social Security system.
2. The Homestead Act of 1862 benefited more than 1.5 million white families. (**True** or False) Black Americans faced significant obstacles including racism, lack of resources, and the inadequate quality of land available hindering their ability to benefit from the Homestead Act.
3. The GI Bill language did not explicitly exclude African American veterans from its benefits, but it was structured in a way that ultimately shut doors for the 1.2 million Black veterans. (**True** or False) Black veterans were significantly disadvantaged by being denied low-cost mortgages. While the GI Bill theoretically allowed all veterans to purchase homes in a rapidly growing suburbs, banks often refuse to make loans for mortgages in Black neighborhoods.
4. In the Civil Rights era, some cities chose to close public swimming pools instead of integrating them. (**True** or False) This was a practice that received official support from the Supreme Court in 1971.
5. The Fairground Park riot was an incident of racial conflict that occurred on June 21, 1949, at a newly integrated public swimming pool. (**True** or False) On June 21st, two hundred white residents surrounded the pool with bats, clubs, bricks, and knives to menace the first thirty or so Black swimmers. Over the course of the day a white mob that grew to five thousand attacked every Black person insight around the Fairground Park. All of this took place in St. Louis, Missouri.
6. Anthony Ray Hinton is a Black activist, writer, and author who was wrongly convicted of the 1985 murders of two fast food restaurant managers. (**True** or False) Mr. Hinton was sentenced to death and held on the Alabama state’s death row for twenty-eight years before his 2015 release. A total of fifty-four men walked past Hinton's cell on their way to execution. Hinton would smell burning flesh from the electric chair, also called Yellow Mama, because it was close to his cell.
7. Lloyd Lionel Gaines, an African American law student, filed a suit against the University of Missouri School of Law, whereas this case was one of the important early cases in the 20th-century U.S. civil rights movement. (**True** or False) The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately ruled in his favor. One evening in Chicago, he departed from the fraternity house where he was lodging and did not return. He was never seen again by any acquaintances or individuals who could identify him.
8. New York City Riot of 1863, that took place in NYC over four days and more than a thousand Irish immigrants in mods attacked the Black community, including children in an orphanage. (**True** or False) The Irish rioters did not want to go fight in a war that might free millions of Black workers to come north and compete for their jobs.
9. Johnson Product, known for Ultra Sheen and Gentle Treatment Hair Care, became the first African American company listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1971. (**True** or False) George E. Johnson Sr. was the founder of Johnson Products Company.
10. In 1883, the Supreme Court struck down America’s first Civil Rights Act. (**True** or False) Black Codes of Jim Crow took hold whereas, any white person was now deputized to enforce the

exclusion of Black people from white areas led to decades of brutal violence against Black men, women, and children.

1. New Guinea was a Black community on Nantucket Island, where free African Americans owned homes and established institutions. (**True** or False) This Black community had roots going back to the 1700s. The area contained churches, shops, a school, and a dance hall. Nantucket Island is located about thirty miles South of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. In the 1960s, eighty-five percent of Black homeowners bought on contract instead of mortgage. (**True** or False) With a contract the seller finances the purchase directly, while with the mortgage a bank or lender provides the funds. In a contract the seller retains the title to the property until the full purchase price is paid, while with the mortgage the deed transfers to the buyer upon closing.
3. Racial covenants in Chicago enforced segregation by limiting Black residential areas. (**True** or False) This type of covenant prohibited the sale, lease, or occupation of properties by people of the specific racial or ethnic groups, primarily African Americans.
4. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 led to construction that significantly impacted communities of color. (**True** or False) In numerous instances, the routes of interstate highways were deliberately chosen to divide or isolate Black neighborhoods from white neighborhoods. Example, Miami I-95 destroyed a sizable portion of Overtown a vibrant Black community known as the “Harlem of the South, and the 15th Ward in Syracuse, NY: the extension of I-81 destroyed a thriving Black community, displacing over 1,300 families. Communities of color were often located near highways, leading to increased exposure to air and noise pollution.
5. Dr. Herbert C. Smitherman Sr. was a chemist and the first African American to be employed at Proctor & Gamble as a doctorate-level employer. (**True** or False) Dr. Smitherman helped improve formulas for products such as Crest toothpaste, Bounce fabric softeners, Folgers coffee, and Safeguard soap.
6. In 1982, Warren County, North Carolina established a landfill containing contaminated soil due to illegal PCB dumping in a predominantly Black community. (**True** or False) According to government data, Black people are 1.5 times more likely than the overall population to be exposed to polluted air and unsafe drinking water forty years later.

The journey of people of color in America since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 has been fraught with systemic barriers that have hindered their pursuit of the American dream. Despite the proclamation's intent to free enslaved African Americans, the reality of achieving true equality has been elusive.

Following the Civil War, the Reconstruction era (1865-1877) saw some progress with the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which aimed to abolish slavery, grant citizenship, and protect voting rights for African Americans. However, the end of Reconstruction led to the rise of Jim Crow laws in the South, which enforced racial segregation and disenfranchised Black citizens.

Throughout the 20th century, discriminatory practices such as redlining, which denied people of color access to mortgages and homeownership, and employment discrimination further entrenched economic disparities. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s brought significant legal victories, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but systemic racism persisted.

In more recent times, issues such as mass incarceration, police brutality, and the racial wealth gap continue to impede the progress of people of color. Despite these challenges, the resilience and contributions of people of color have been instrumental in shaping American society and culture.

The struggle for equality and the American dream remains ongoing, with continued efforts to address and dismantle systemic racism and promote social justice.