



**RACEWITHOUTISM**

*Are you brave enough?*

The Genesis of Racism:  
Why We Are Where We Are With Race Relations in  
America

Taking the 'ISM' out of RACE

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# Lessons to Learn Through Facing Uncomfortable Truths

Educators and civic leaders are welcome to use this timeline to explore the evolution of racism in the United States of America from its genesis: the brutal institution of slavery.

Each timeline includes pivotal events in the USA that have to do with the assimilation of enslaved and freed African Americans into the US Constitution, wholly and fully, and the repeated setbacks to such assimilation.

The opportunity is for the leader to develop, through their own research, lesson plans that are compatible with the intended audience. The timeline works best when learners are challenged to make the connections between the institution of chattel slavery, the conflicting beliefs of the Founding Fathers and the Framers of the Constitution, while reflecting on the persistence of racism in the nation.

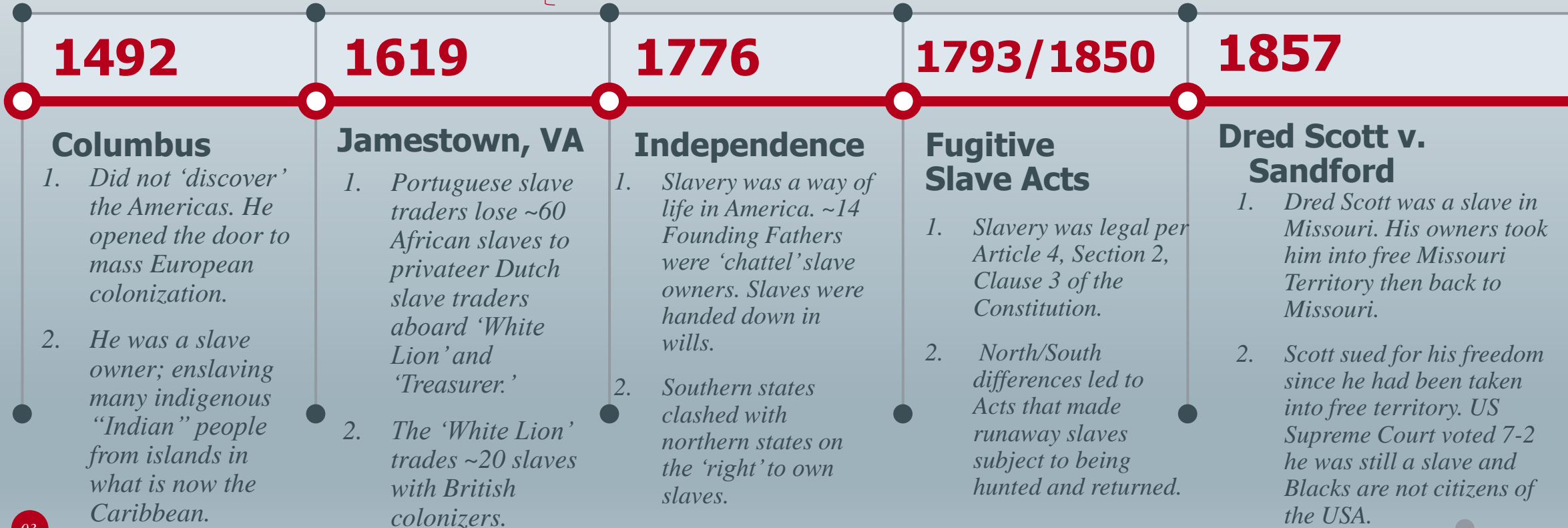
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# Racism: The Genesis, Part I

*Why we are where we are with race relations in the USA*

**1787:** For legislative and tax purposes, the original US Constitution included the Three-Fifths Compromise:  $\frac{3}{5}$  of total slaves + total whites - Indians = representation.



# Racism: The Genesis, Part II

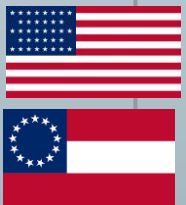
*Why we are where we are with race relations in the USA*

← **The Reconstruction Amendments** →

**1861-1865**

## US Civil War

1. *North/South tensions explode into an outright war, primarily over the right to own chattel slaves.*
2. *The Union vs. the Confederacy takes ~850K military lives. ~200K Blacks were enlisted by the Union.*



**1863**

## Emancipation Proclamation

1. *President Abraham Lincoln issues this executive order as a war strategy against the Confederacy.*
2. *It DOES NOT abolish slavery, it frees slaves held in Confederate States.*

**1865**

## 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment

1. *Abolishes slavery and involuntary servitude EXCEPT as punishment for a crime.*
2. *Applies to sex trafficking as well..*

**1868**

## 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

1. *Grants citizenship to all born or naturalized in the US. Includes Blacks.*
2. *Grants equal protection under the law for ALL.*

**The Civil Rights Act of 1866 declared ALL people born in the US are citizens.**

**1870**

## 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

1. *Granted the right to vote to Black men.*
2. *Former Confederate States nullified it with poll taxes, literacy tests, quizzes and grandfather clauses (limited voting rights to those who had the right before ~1867. Allowed illiterate Whites to be exempt from poll taxes, quizzes, etc.)*

# Racism: The Genesis, Part III

*Why we are where we are with race relations in the USA*

1875: The Civil Rights Act of 1875 grants **All** citizens rights to equal accommodation in public places and facilities. SCOTUS overruled it in 1883, furthering the practice of Jim Crow Laws adopted by Southern States adamantly opposed to the Reconstruction Amendments.

**1896**

## Plessy v. Ferguson

1. In 1892, Homer Plessy took a seat in a 'Whites Only' train car in NOLA. The conductor demanded he move. Plessy declared he was 7/8 White. He was arrested, released on \$500 bail.
2. Plessy sued all the way to the SCOTUS. He lost; the Court ruled **separate but equal** was legal. Enter full on Jim Crow laws.

**1948**

## Desegregating the US Military

1. Following WWII, POTUS Harry S. Truman signed Executive order 9981 into law, desegregating all branches of the military.
2. Segregation of troops was in place as far back as the Civil War. Black servicepeople would earn a place in history: i.e., The Red Ball Express and Tuskegee Airmen in WWII.

**1954**

## Brown v. Board of Education

1. Oliver Brown, Topeka, KS, challenged the 'Plessy' separate but equal doctrine as it applied to schools.
2. On appeal to SCOTUS, Brown won, leading to desegregation of schools and all public spaces and facilities. The Civil Rights Movement ignites.

**1964**

## Civil Rights Act of 1964

1. Signed into law by POTUS Lyndon B. Johnson. Act was the most sweeping since Reconstruction. It was originally introduced by POTUS J. F. Kennedy.
2. Banned race, color, sex, religion, natural origin discrimination in housing, schools, hotels, and jobs. Bans racial segregation.

**1968**

## Civil Rights Act of 1968

POTUS Johnson signed the Act into law. It includes even more sweeping racial discrimination remedies for Blacks and Native Americans. It has four broad parts:

1. Hate Crimes
2. Indian Civil Rights
3. Fair Housing Act
4. Anti-Riot Act

# Terms to Explore

Having a robust vocabulary can enhance the learning experience and improve comprehension skills.

The following slides offer terms directly related to the themes covered in our TIMELINE. Educators/Leaders of learning sessions may find these terms beneficial to creating discovery exercises. They are deliberately not in alphabetical order; reflective of how RACISM does not follow a defined pattern.

# Glossary

**Emancipation :** The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed enslaved people in Southern states that had seceded from the Union. The Thirteenth Amendment, ratified in 1865, prohibited slavery throughout the United States “except as punishment for crime.”

**Reconstruction :** Process by which the federal government used federal troops and Congressional authority to enforce emancipation and protect formerly enslaved peoples’ new civil rights and American citizenship

**Civil Rights :** The rights of personal liberty guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments and by acts of Congress, including the right to receive equal treatment and to be free from unfair discrimination in education, employment, housing, and other settings

# Glossary

**Sharecropping** : A system under which black laborers worked white-owned land in exchange for a share of the crop at harvest minus costs for food and lodging; sharecroppers frequently received no pay and had no recourse.

**Convict leasing** : The practice of selling the labor of state and local prisoners to private interests for state profit.

**Jim Crow** : A term used to describe the subordination and separation of black people in the South, much of it codified and much of it still enforced by custom, habit, and violence.



# Glossary

**Manumission** - The act of a slaveholder granting freedom from chattel enslavement by written decree.

**Indentured Servant** - A person who voluntarily or involuntarily submits to manual labor for minimal wages and for a defined period of time in exchange for food and lodging. An indentured servant retained their civil rights and could be released from servitude upon proving their boss mistreated them. Many Irish people were deliberately shipped to the New World from Ireland and committed to indentured servitude to pay for their crimes.

**Chattel Slavery** - The institution of forcibly enslaving African people to work without any legal protections, wages or right to life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness. American Chattel Slavery is believed to be the most brutal system of enslavement on record, primarily propagated in the Southern US Confederate States. A chattel slave was the legal property of the slaveholder to do with as they pleased, to include rape, murder and mutilation, with absolute impunity.