

Jim Crow Laws Research

Coughing Fish

Voting was unfair for Black people

- Registering to vote, you had to pass a test to prove you could read. Schools for Black kids were so poor and lacked supplies like books and paper. So a lot of Black kids could barely read. Which meant they couldn't pass the tests required literacy tests.
- White people usually just signed up with no test. But if they did have to take a test, they got an easy test: Example, read this out loud: **No person shall be imprisoned for debt.** Then they were asked a question.
- Black people got a hard test: Example, read this out loud: **The income arising from the sixteenth section trust fund, the surplus revenue fund, until it is called for by the United States government, and the funds enumerated in sections 257 and 258 of this Constitution, together with a special annual tax of thirty cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property in this state, which the legislature shall levy, shall be applied to the support and maintenance of the public schools, and it shall be the duty of the legislature to increase the public school fund from time to time as the necessity therefor and the condition of the treasury and the resources of the state may justify; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize the legislature to levy in any one year a greater rate of state taxation for all purposes, including schools, than sixty-five cents on each one hundred dollars' worth of taxable property; and provided further, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the legislature from first providing for the payment of the bonded indebtedness of the state and interest thereon out of all the revenue of the state.** Then they were asked a lot of questions.
- Poll Tax – you had to pay money to register to vote. Black people were often poor so they couldn't register.
- Property Ownership – you could only vote if you owned property/house. Black people were often not even allowed to buy property and couldn't afford it anyway.
- Had to answer questions about the constitution but in school it was against the law to teach them about the constitution.
- White people would hang out at polling places and attack Black people if they tried to enter and register to vote.