

Aim: What obstacles did African Americans face following Reconstruction?

Do Now: In your opinion, was Reconstruction too lenient or too harsh on the South? Explain?

Homework:

Tues 10/15: Test Corrections Due

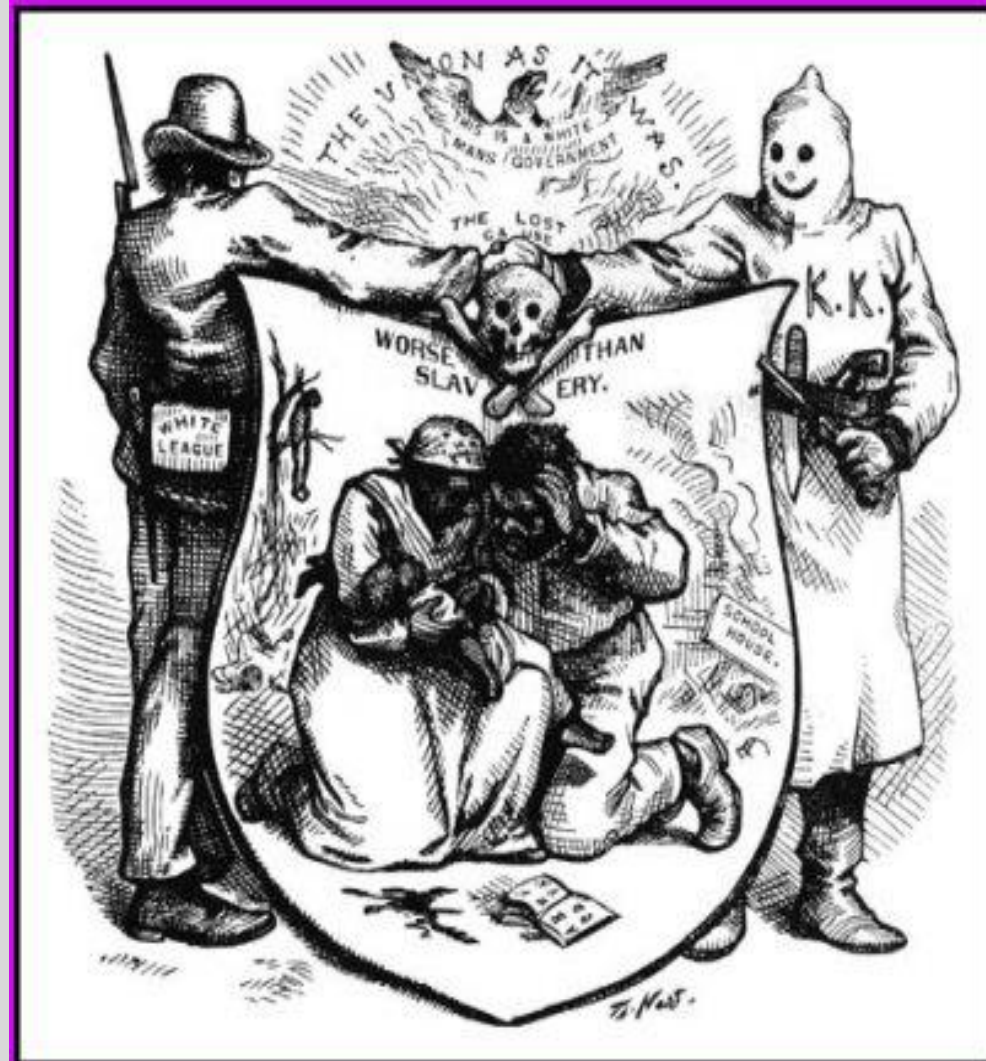
Fri 10/11: Geography Quiz #1

Solid South

- [Elections](#)

Political Developments

- The “Solid South” – Democratic Party dominated until 1960s
- Gov’ts led by Redeemers
 - Reactionary – nostalgia for the “Old South”
 - Supported:
 - States rights – limited role of federal government
 - White Supremacy
- [Disenfranchisement of southern blacks](#)



White Supremacy

The belief, theory, or doctrine that white people are inherently superior to people from all other racial groups, especially black people, and are therefore rightfully the dominant group in any society

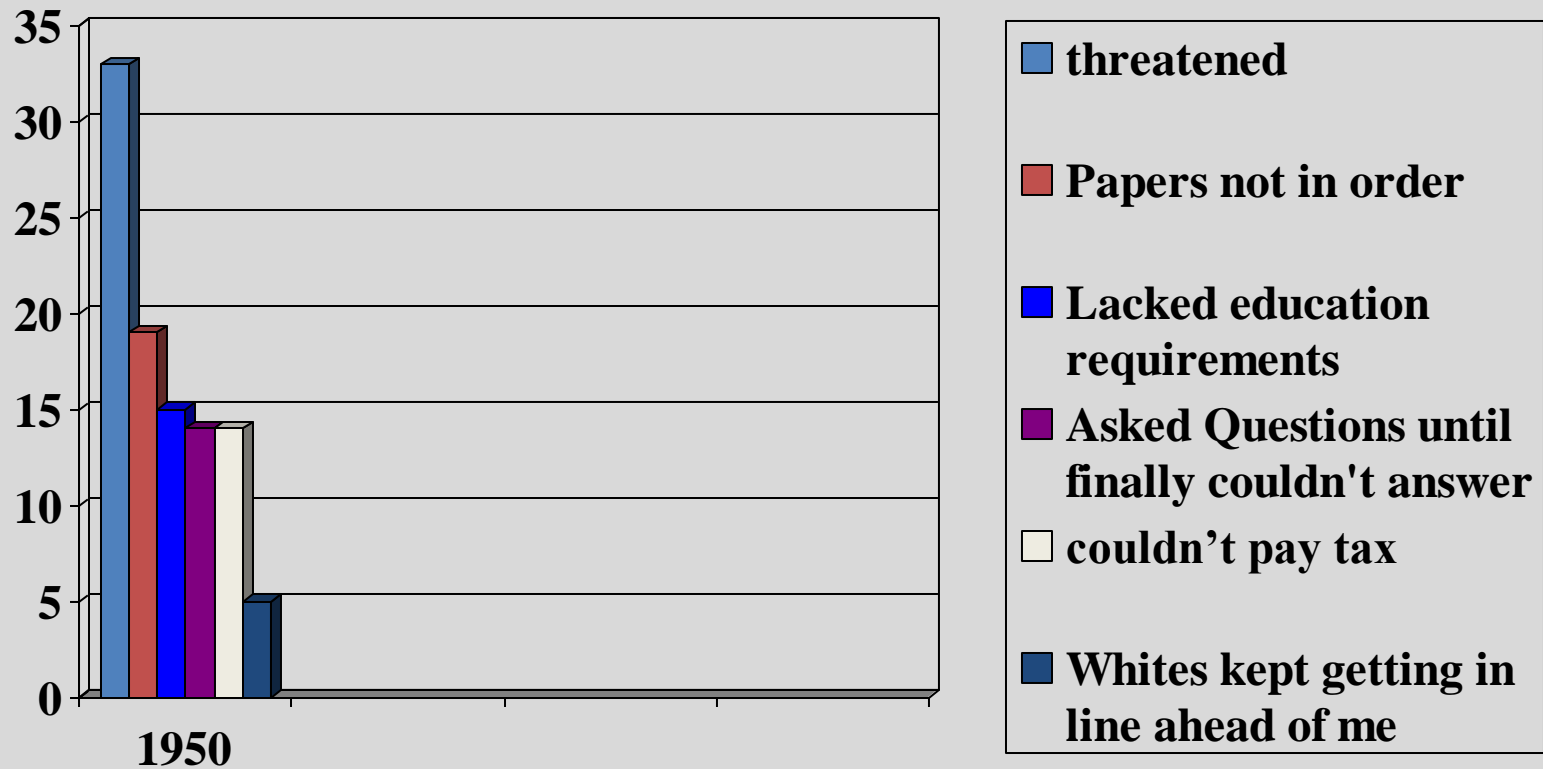
- **Suffrage** the right to vote
- **Franchise** the right to vote
- **Disenfranchisement**: the act of depriving someone of the right to vote

Voting Restrictions

- Legal
 - **Literacy Tests**: answer questions in order to vote.
 - **Poll taxes**: fee to vote
 - **Grandfather Clause**: exempt from poll tax and literacy test if your grandfather voted before Reconstruction
- Intimidation



Why Blacks who tried were not always able to register to vote



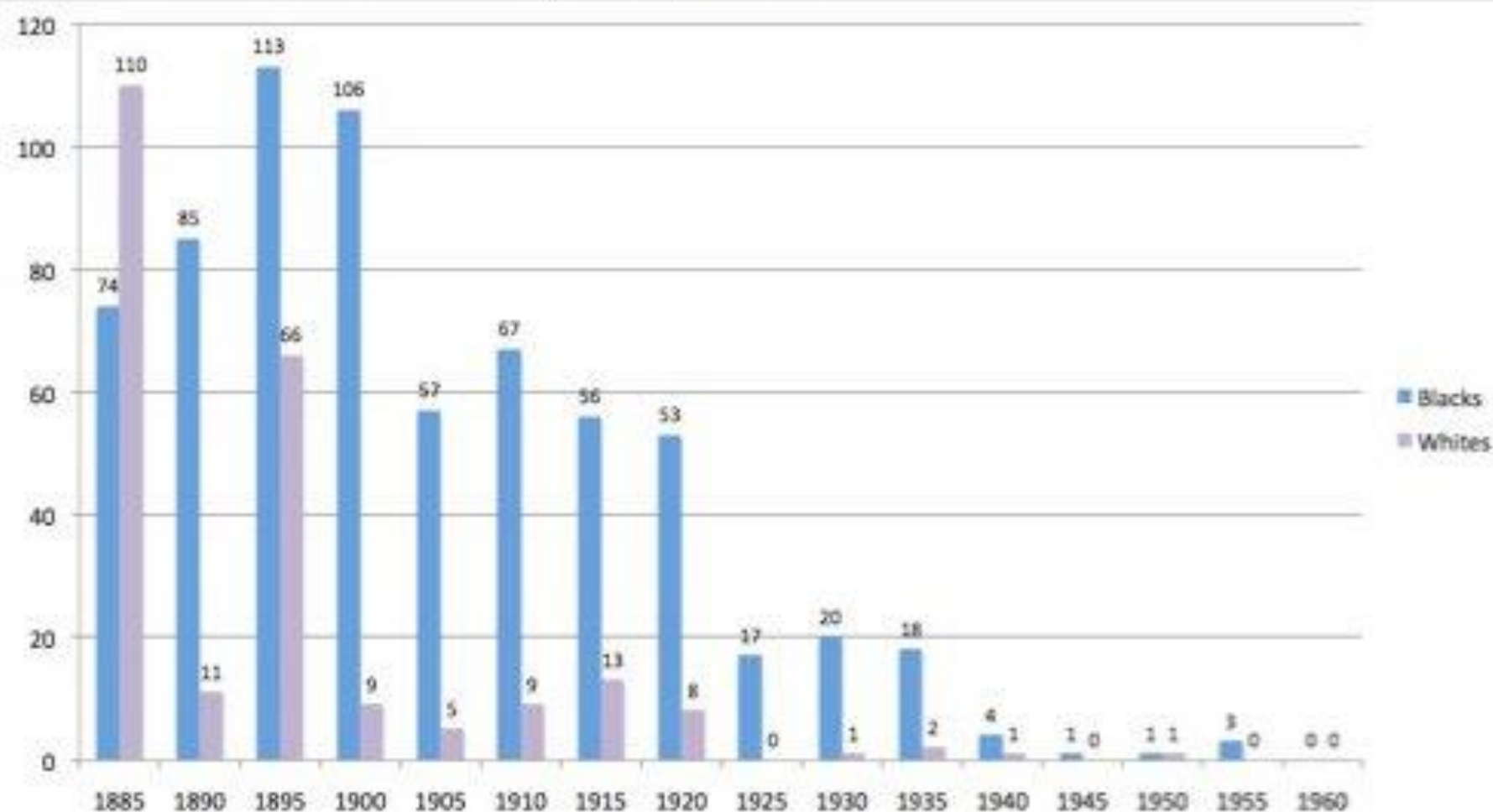
- How were the rights of African Americans restricted in the New South?

Billie Holiday – Strange Fruit

- <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/bf09.socst.us.prosp.powersong/strange-fruit-a-song-born-of-protest/>

Lynching in America

Number of black and white citizens lynched, 1885-1960

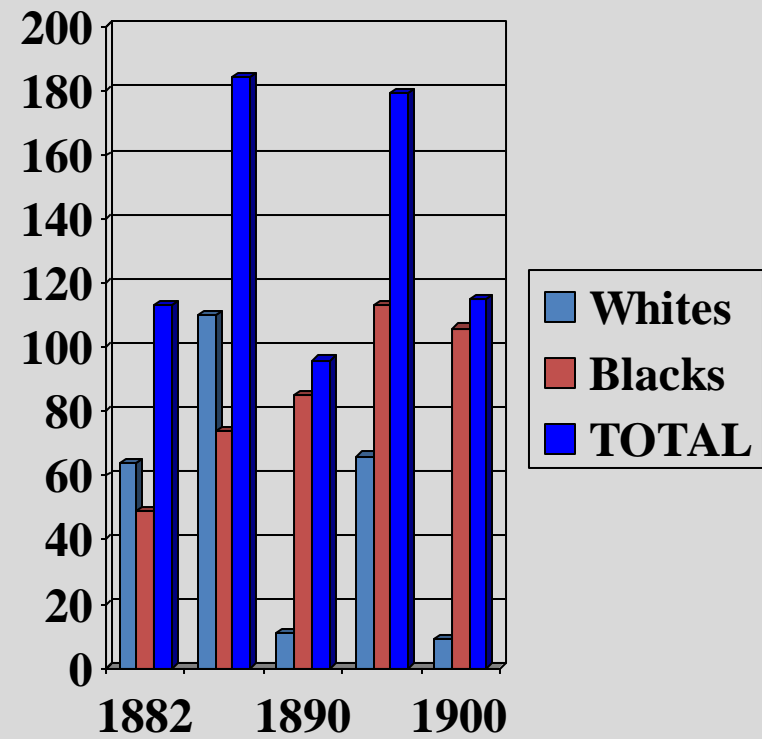


Source: "Lynchings: By State and Race, 1882-1968". Statistics provided by the Archives at the Tuskegee Institute.

© The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

- **Lynch** :To put to death, especially by hanging, by mob action and without legal authority.
- **Lynch Mob**: A group of people intent on lynching someone.

Lynchings

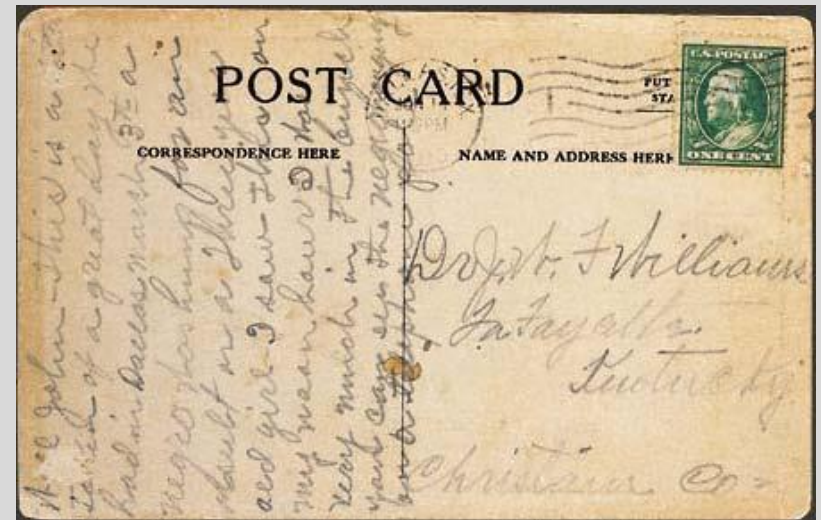


Lynching Postcard Dallas, Texas



Back of Post Card

- “Well John, This is a token of a great day we had in Dallas, March 3, a negro was hung for an assault on a three year-old girl. I saw this on my noon hour. I was very much in the bunch. You can see the negro hanging on the telephone pole.



- In what other ways were the rights of African Americans restricted following Reconstruction?

Social Developments: Rise of Jim Crow (Segregation)



Jim Crow Laws

Segregation Laws – legal Separation of the Races

WHITE

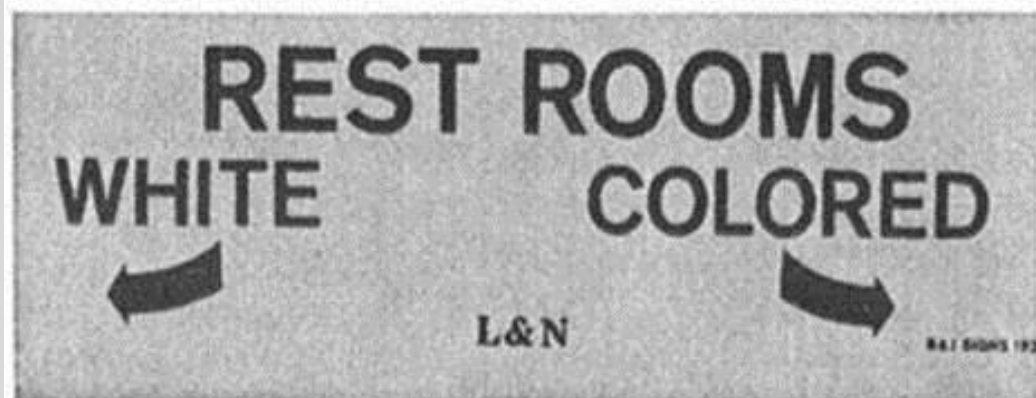
COLORED



**WE SERVE
WHITE'S** *only*

NO

SPANISH *or* **MEXICANS**



In 1890, Louisiana passed the Separate Car Act, requiring black and white patrons to sit in separate sections of railcars on intrastate railroads. Homer Plessy, in a pre-meditated act of defiance, boarded a train in New Orleans and announced that he was neither white nor inclined to move to a section for African Americans. For this he was arrested and convicted of violating the Act.



LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS,
TULANE UNIVERSITY

Civil Disobedience – intentionally breaking an unjust law

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

- **Constitutional Issue**: Do Jim Crow (Louisiana Railway Segregation) Laws Violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment?
- **Supreme Court Decision**: Louisiana law (segregation laws) were Constitutional
- Established “Separate but Equal”
- Separate facilities for African Americans do not violate their rights as long as those facilities are equal to those provided for white Americans

The Supreme Court and Segregation

- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)– upheld Louisiana law requiring blacks and whites to ride in separate railway cars. Established separate but equal doctrine.

Economic Developments

- Changes in Agriculture
 - Sharecropping



What is sharecropping?

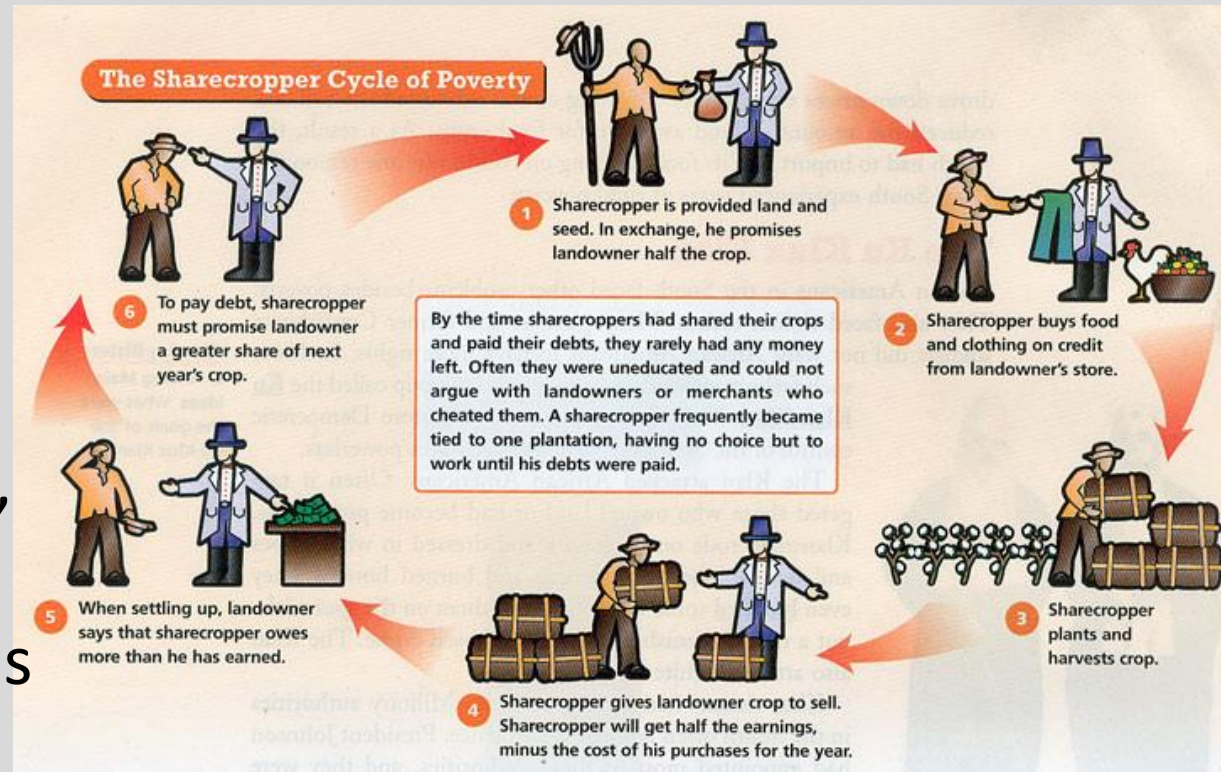
- Farmer rented land from landlord
 - Agreed to give landlord a portion of his crop at harvest time
 - Sold remaining crop
- Farmer also bought seed, tools, food, etc. on credit.
 - Paid off debt with remaining income

Sharecropping

Why was the sharecropping system so hard to overcome?

Sharecropping:

- a tenant farmer, someone who works land that's rented from its owner
- Cycle of debt



SHARECROPPERS' CYCLE OF POVERTY

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. A sharecropper became tied to one plantation, having to work until his debts were paid.

- 6** To pay debt, sharecropper promises landowner a greater share of next year's crop.



- 1** Sharecropper receives land and seed. In exchange, he promises landowner half the crop.

- 2** Sharecropper buys food and clothing on credit from landowner's store.



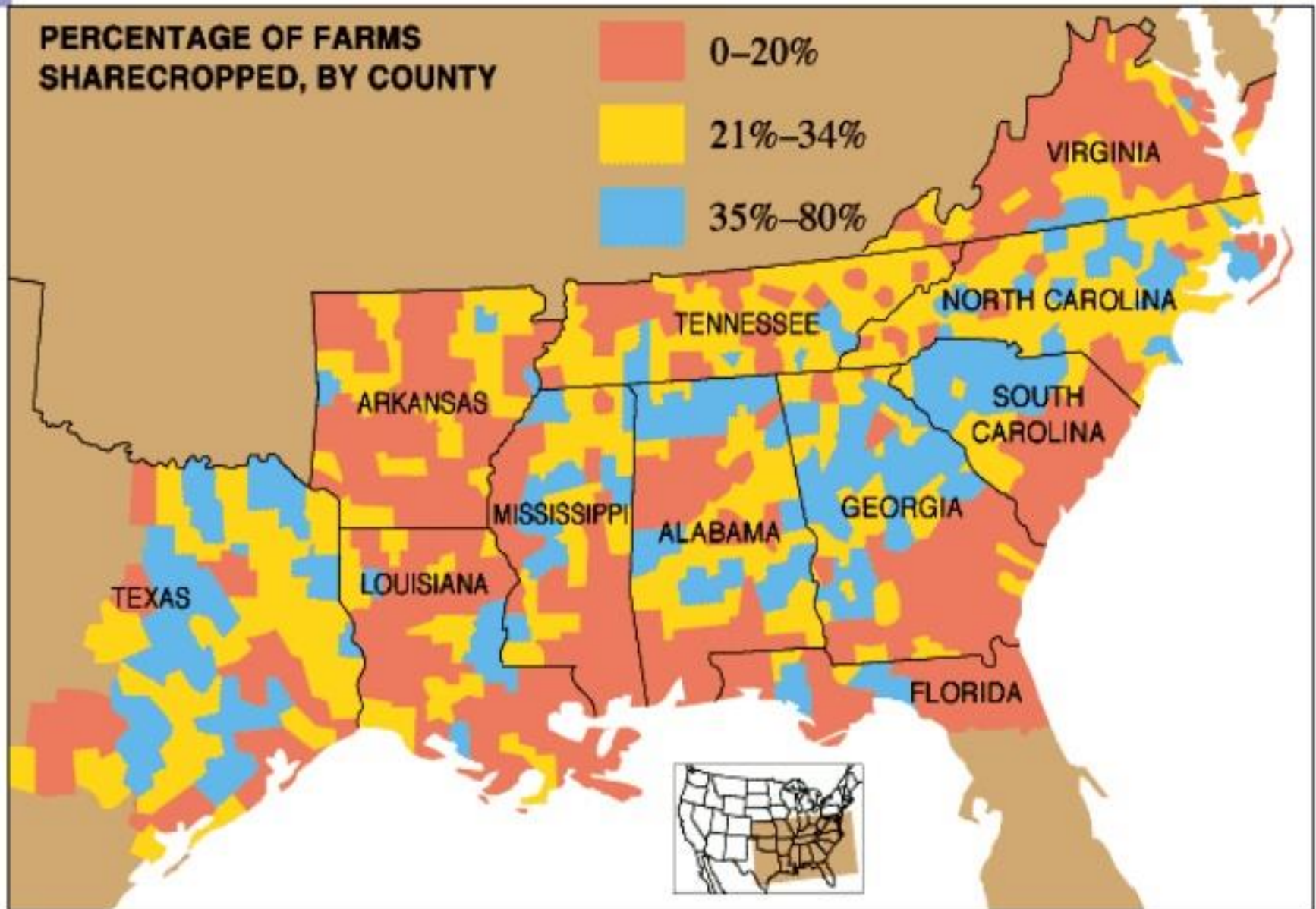
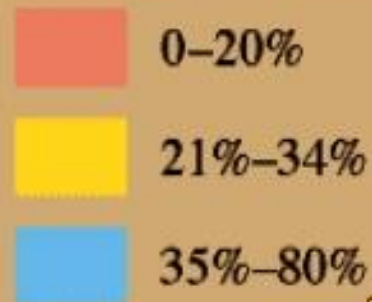
- 5** When settling up, landowner says that sharecropper owes more than he has earned.

- 4** Sharecropper gives landowner crop to sell. Sharecropper gets half the earnings, minus his debt for the year.



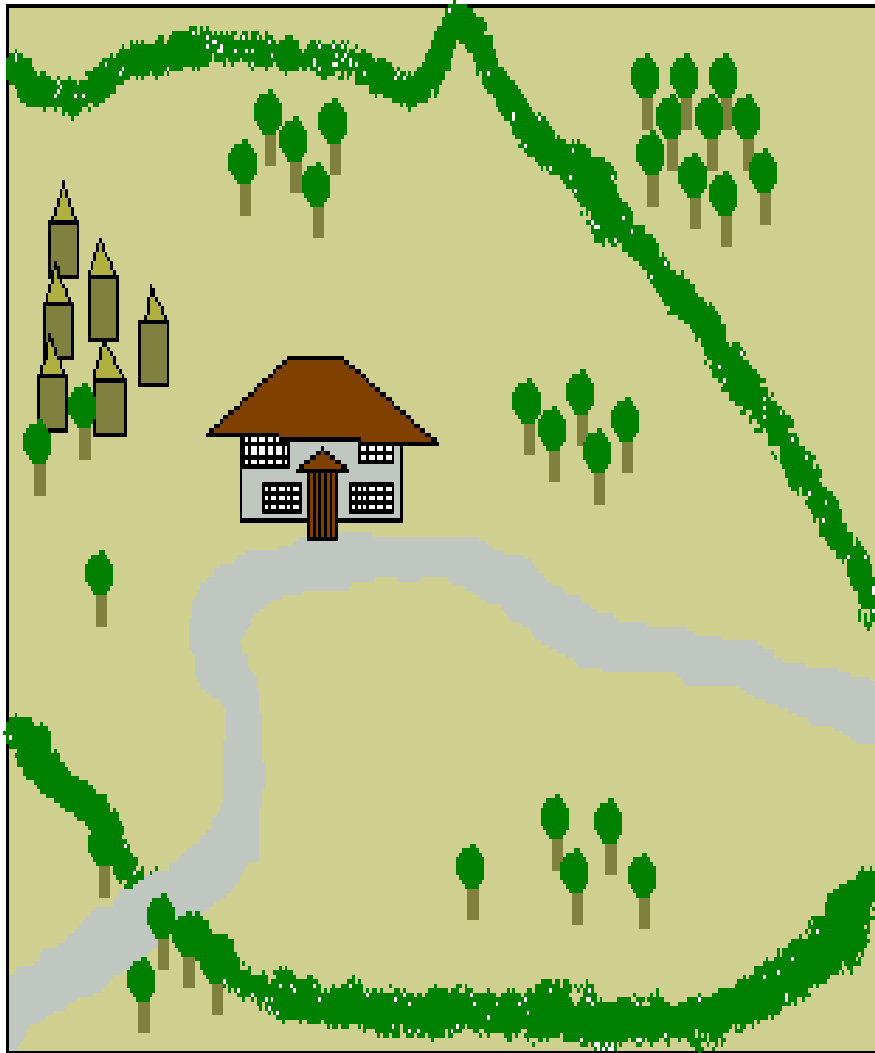
- 3** Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.

**PERCENTAGE OF FARMS
SHARECROPPED, BY COUNTY**

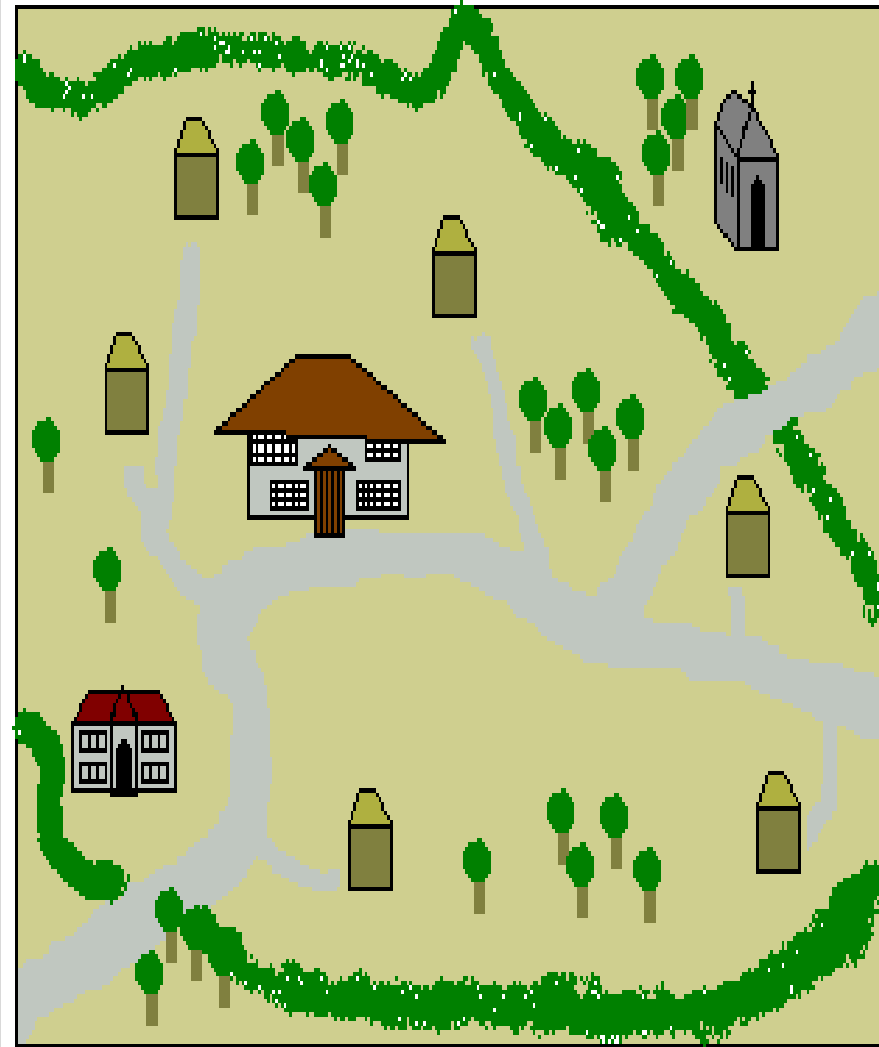


SHARECROPPING IN THE SOUTH - 1880

Slavery

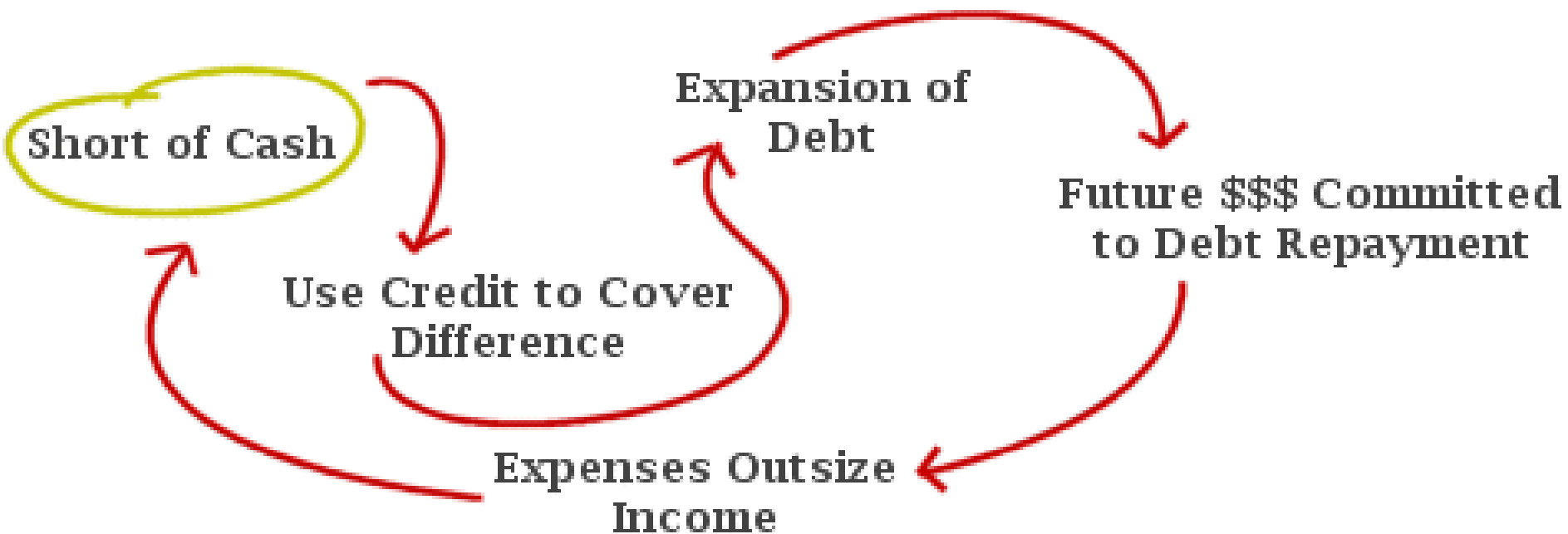


Sharecropping



Results

- Cycle of debt



Writing

- Why might Homer Plessy be called the Rosa Parks of the 19th Century?
- What do you think will be the effect of the Courts decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson?