

## Learning about White Supremacy and How to Talk About it

### Resources for All Ages

Wondering how to talk with your children, students and/or adult peers about race, racism, and white supremacy? Start here with these resources for children, teens, and adults.

**Items 1-9** offer resources to help adults communicate with children and teens about race, racism, and white supremacy. They are meant for parents, teachers, and mentors.

**Items 10-20** include information for adults about the lives of Black people that may not have been known or considered. It is hoped that this list will be used to increase knowledge about, empathy for, and effective allyship with Black people. This list with its many links is not meant for people to read in one sitting. Think of it as a menu from which you can choose one issue at a time. These issues together reveal the definition and subtle perniciousness of systemic racism.

1. **Into America with Trymaine Lee Podcast:** “Into an American Uprising: Talking to Kids about Racism. June 4, 2020. This 27-minute interview of Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum gives great word-for-word scripts parents, teachers and mentors can use in discussing race. You can listen here <https://www.nbcnews.com/podcast/into-america/american-uprising-talking-kids-about-racism-n1225316> or on other podcast platforms such as Stitcher, Spotify, or iTunes. The full transcript is here: <https://www.nbcnews.com/podcast/into-america/transcript-talking-kids-about-racism-n1226281>.
2. **Diverse BookFinder** [www.diversebookfinder.org](http://www.diversebookfinder.org) (Also on Facebook and Instagram) People can also request local libraries to carry children's books featuring BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color).
3. **Embrace Race** [www.EmbraceRace.org](http://www.EmbraceRace.org) : Many resources and brief “Tip” sheets to help adults communicate with children about racism.
4. **Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School** by Janet Halfmann and London Ladd. Educational disparities began during slavery. Teaching Black people to read was illegal in some places and discouraged in others. This book explains the great

lengths Black people went through to learn to read. It is a beautifully illustrated children's book that describes life in bondage.

5. **“Confronting White Nationalism in Schools: A Toolkit.”** Western States Center. This was developed by Chicago teacher Nora Flanagan. You can hear her story here: <https://www.npr.org/local/309/2019/06/20/734155483/c-p-s-teacher-develops-toolkit-to-fight-white-nationalism>. You can download the Toolkit from here: <https://www.pps.net/cms/lib/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/4/ConfrontingWhiteNationalismInSchoolsToolkit.pdf>
6. **The Zinn Education Project.** [www.zinnedproject.org](http://www.zinnedproject.org) It has been said that the story of history is publicized by the conquerors/imperialists and presents them in the best light. In schools we are not taught about the other point of view. Howard Zinn's **“A People's History of the United States”** presents the unsanitized version of American History and leaves no one to wonder why the United States continues to have issues of race and class. This is a great book for high schoolers and adults. The Zinn Education Project website “offers free, downloadable lessons and articles organized by theme, time period, and reading level.”
7. **Teaching Tolerance** was founded in 1991 by the **Southern Poverty Law Center** to “stop the spread of hate.” The website has professional development and classroom resources. They also publish a magazine. <https://www.tolerance.org/>
8. **Dream A World Anew: The African American Experience and the Shaping of America.** *The National Museum of African American History and Culture.* <https://nmaahc.si.edu/> The museum in Washington, DC, a pilgrimage for Black people, is a “must-see” if one wants to learn about the history of Black people in the United States, from the beginning of slavery, through reconstruction and Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement through today. One needs three days to go through this building to see everything. It is a deeply moving experience. If you can't go, this book beautifully highlights many of the exhibits.
9. Your high schooler (or you) may notice most Americans (white and Black) know more about European history than African history. **Africa's Great Civilizations with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** is a good starting point to learn more. It was aired on PBS and can be bought here: <https://shop.pbs.org/africas-great-civilizations-dvd/product/AGRC600> . See if your public library has the DVD/Blu-Ray or request it. It documents the beginnings of humanity, the cultures of the different regions, kings, queens and

generals, the rise of Christianity and Islam, and the beginnings of the Atlantic Slave Trade.

10. When considering the African continent, it is helpful to understand the **Berlin Conference**. This Conference, convened by Otto von Bismarck, the first Chancellor of Germany, divided the continent of Africa among the countries of Europe. This means the boundaries drawn by the Europeans were artificial, ignoring the natural boundaries set by the peoples of the African continent. This set the stage for ongoing war in some places. Please take the time to learn about each African country. There are 54 of them, all with different cultures and languages.
  
11. **Reconstruction: America After the Civil War with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** This DVD can be bought from PBS.com or from Amazon.com. For most people in the United States, high school provided an incomplete education of American history, especially about Black people. For example, the first person killed in the American Revolution was a Bostonian Black man, Crispus Attucks. School children learn that Black people were enslaved and set free after the Civil War. Some say, “slavery is over, so what’s the problem?” Rarely would one find people who know what happened during and after the brief Reconstruction period that led to the problems we have today. The extended trailer of the documentary can be seen here: <https://www.pbs.org/video/reconstruction-extended-trailer-pkhs21/> and Part 1 of this 4-part, 4 hour documentary can be seen here: <https://www.pbs.org/video/reconstruction-part-1-hour-1-n0g1em/>. Don’t stop at part one. The entire documentary explains how we arrived at the current point in American history. The DVD can be purchased here: <https://shop.pbs.org/reconstruction-america-after-the-civil-war-dvd/product/HEGU601>. It may be at your local library or you can request that the library carry it.
  
12. There are three more DVDs published by PBS from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. that chronicle Black people in the United States. They are also available through Amazon.com.
  - a. **The African-Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**  
<https://shop.pbs.org/the-african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross-dvd/product/AARC600>
  - b. **Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**  
<https://shop.pbs.org/black-america-since-mlk-and-still-i-rise-dvd/product/ASIR601>

- c. **Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance.** Henry Louis Gates, Jr. <https://shop.pbs.org/against-the-odds-the-artists-of-the-harlem-renaissance-dvd/product/AGOA601>
13. **The Negro Motorist Green Book Compendium: Four volumes of the Jim Crow-era travel guide for African Americans covering all four decades during which the series was published, 1938, 1947, 1954 and 1963** by *Victor H. Green*. You or your children/students may ask, “Why are there no or few Black people in my neighborhood and school?” Perhaps your town was a “sundown” town, or a town in which Black people would be harassed, physically abused, or murdered if they were there after sundown. This book was created by **Victor H. Green** to alert Black travelers to the safe places to travel in the United States. This website <https://sundown.tougaloo.edu/sundowntownsshow.php?state=NY> list possible sundown towns in New York State along with information about racial animus through conversations with residents. This site was created by Matt Cheney, is maintained by Phil Huckelberry, and is copyrighted by James W. Loewen 1997-2019.
14. **The Post-Racial Negro Green Book: Systemic Racism, Police Brutality, Mass Incarceration, Overpolicing, Sentencing Disparity, Racial Profiling, Implicit Bias, White Privilege, and Microaggressions.** *Published by Brown Bird Books, 2017.* This book lists statistics of racist incidents by state and includes a “#Say Their Names Index” some of the Black people murdered in each state.
15. **The Massacre of Black Wall Street.** Natalie Chang, Clayton Henry and Marcelo Maiolo. This is a digital graphic novel about the destruction of a town of wealthy Black people in the community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma May 31-June 1, 1921. This was the first incidence of the United States dropping bombs on an American city. When people say that Black people need to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps” you can share with them the history of what happens when they do. <https://www.theatlantic.com/sponsored/hbo-2019/the-massacre-of-black-wall-street/3217/>
16. **The Rosewood Massacre.** January 1-7. 1923 Rosewood, Florida. This is an early example of how false accusations of white women led to the murder of Black people, particularly Black men. The most recent highly publicized one was Amy Cooper in Central Park: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/29/amy-cooper-white-woman/>. Before Amy Cooper there was the accuser of Emmitt Till <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/us/emmett-till-lynching-carolyn-bryant-donham.html>. The Rosewood Massacre took place over the course of a week and

destroyed an entire community. <https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/rosewood-massacre>

17. **The Case for Reparations.** Ta-Nehisi Coates. This article explains how Black Americans were disenfranchised after the Civil War through sharecropping, redlining and restrictive covenants, which left no opportunity to develop wealth to pass on to descendants. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

18. **Slave Patrols: An Early Form of American Policing.** Chelsea Hansen. Published by the *Law Enforcement Museum*. <https://lawenforcementmuseum.org/2019/07/10/slave-patrols-an-early-form-of-american-policing/>. Shows the parallels between the first police force and police brutality of BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) of today.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment loophole continues slavery via the prison system. The documentary *The 13<sup>th</sup>* is a Netflix film which can be seen for free on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>.

Fines and forfeiture are used as revenue enhancement for localities; therefore, the more policing of an area, the more money the town gets through these means. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/chuckdevore/2016/10/26/police-collected-fines-fees-and-forfeitures-how-does-your-city-rank/#2e3a484d2520>. This places an additional hardship to low-income families. The Internal Revenue Service adds burden to poor families, many of whom are Black. “[Tax] returns claiming an earned income tax credit (EITC) were audited at a rate more than twice that of all individual tax returns” <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/how-do-irs-audits-affect-low-income-families> while wealthy predominately white people and their corporations and businesses benefit from tax loopholes <https://www.inc.com/don-reisinger/amazon-is-paying-us-taxes-this-year-but-not-in-way-you-might-think.html>.

19. The medical profession has had a history of failing Black people. It has also brutalized Black people. Many Black people do not trust the medical profession today because of the **Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment** <https://www.history.com/news/the-infamous-40-year-tuskegee-study>. The myths that dehumanize lead to Black people being ignored when they say they are in pain. **Medical Bondage: Race, Gender and the Origins of American Gynecology** by Deirdre Cooper Owens explores American medical history and explains the likelihood that more Black women die in childbirth from preventable causes than white women, often because doctors don’t listen to Black women. Take the case of **Serena Williams** <https://www.vogue.com/article/serena-williams-vogue-cover-interview-february-2018>.

At times, the business and the medical communities conspire against Black people. The stories of the Fultz quadruplets and Henrietta Lacks demonstrate this (**Skimmed: Breastfeeding, Race and Injustice** by Andrea Freeman and **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Skloot).

The “othering” of Black people leads white people to believe that Black people are superhumans who can withstand more pain than white people. Black children are perceived to be older and more “worldly” than they really are. **Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls’ Childhood** by Rebecca Epstein, Jamilia J. Blake and Thalia Gonzalez describes how Black girls are perceived as needing less nurturing, protection, support, and comfort as they are “adultified”.

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-inequality-center/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2017/08/girlhood-interrupted.pdf>.

The fate of Black boys has been more widely publicized

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2018/09/21/innocence-denied-black-boys-who-face-harsher-scrutiny-consequences-than-their-white-peers/>.

20. *Phenotype discrimination* is discrimination based on the natural outward appearance of people, primarily skin color, hair texture, nose width/length, and body shape. The movie, music and modeling industries have decided that Black women with lighter skin get more work and exposure than their darker sisters. Yet, white women who use artificial means to increase lip and hip size, tan their skin, or cornrow their hair are considered attractive. The more naturally African features a person has, particularly the darker the skin tone, the more likely that person is to be ostracized <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1745691619851781> . Black women organized to convince several states to pass laws banning discrimination in the workplace and in schools based on hair textures and hair styles <https://www.thecrownact.com/>. Phenotype discrimination affects more than job opportunities and beauty contests. Black offenders get more lenient prison sentences if they have lighter skin [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281227772\\_Skin\\_Color\\_and\\_the\\_Criminal\\_Justice\\_System\\_Beyond\\_Black-White\\_Disparities\\_in\\_Sentencing](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281227772_Skin_Color_and_the_Criminal_Justice_System_Beyond_Black-White_Disparities_in_Sentencing)