

TEXT- DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

Use these questions in assessments, journal prompts, speaking and listening activities, or a variety of other instructional tasks.

1 ABOLITION IN THE NORTH: ELIZABETH FREEMAN SUES FOR FREEDOM

KEY DETAILS *Option One:* Who were the first enslaved people to sue for and win their freedom? *Answer:* Elizabeth Freeman (Mum Bett) and Brom.
Option Two: What led to the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts? *Answer:* A lawsuit brought by Elizabeth Freeman (Mum Bett).

INFERENCES Why might Mum Bett discard her name as an enslaved person for the name Elizabeth Freeman? *Answer:* Many formerly enslaved people chose new names to declare their freedom from the names enslavers had given them.

2 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

KEY DETAILS In what year did the freshman class at Yale University admit the largest number of Black students up to that point? *Answer:* September 1969

TEXT-TO-TEXT Why are Lyndon B. Johnson's words from his speech at Howard in 1965 important to affirmative action? *Answers will vary and may include:* Johnson acknowledged that civil rights alone were not enough to create equal access to opportunity for African Americans.

3 AFRICAN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

KEY DETAILS Which institutions were the first Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)? *Answer:* Wilberforce University in Ohio, Lincoln University and Cheyney University in Pennsylvania.

INFERENCES Why were these first institutions of higher education for African Americans important? *Answer:* Educational opportunities, especially in higher education, were quite limited for African Americans. HBCUs created opportunities and continue to provide campus climates that are welcoming and affirming to African American students.

4 19TH CENTURY BLACK DISCOVERIES

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What do Lewis Latimer and Sarah Boone have in common? *Answer:* Latimer and Boone are innovative Black inventors who transformed their respective fields, paving the way for other Black inventors.

INFERENCES Why might American students have learned about Thomas Edison but not Lewis Latimer? *Answer:* Latimer was a Black man, and Black people, historically, have not been recognized for their contributions.

5 BLACK EXPLORERS

KEY DETAILS Which Black man saw more of the North American continent on foot than any other explorer before Lewis and Clark? *Answer:* Esteban, an enslaved African brought to Florida.

INFERENCES Why might students have learned about Lewis and Clark but not Esteban? *Answer:* Textbooks and lessons often omit the contributions of Black people.

6 BLACK FEMINISM

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is Black feminism? *Answer:* Black feminism looks at gender through the context of race and vice versa. It centers the concerns and stories of Black women.

TEXT-TO-WORLD What current movements are rooted in or influenced by Black feminism? *Answers will vary and may include:* #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo and #BlackInTheIvory are all modern movements started by Black women.

7 BLACK POWER

KEY DETAILS Why did Stokely Carmichael’s message resonate when Dr. King’s message of nonviolence was wearing thin? *Answer:* Because violence was everywhere, and Carmichael encouraged people to not be afraid to seek Black power.

INFERENCES What were some of the multiple meanings of “Black Power”? *Answer:* Power in elected office; power in self-determination; power in education; arts and culture focused on positive Black identity; an end to nonviolence as the only organizing strategy.

8 BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is Booker T. Washington known for? *Answer:* Booker T. Washington is known for advocating for African Americans to gain economic power through industrial education, principally through his work at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

INFERENCES How was Booker T. Washington a complex historical figure? *Answer:* Although he advised African Americans to make the best of their current circumstances (“cast down your bucket where you are”), behind the scenes, he funded anti-discrimination lawsuits challenging Jim Crow policies.

9 THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

KEY DETAILS Who are some of the Black women who played key roles in launching the modern Civil Rights Movement? *Answer:* Linda Brown, Rosa Parks

INFERENCES Why was the March on Washington an important event for the Civil Rights Movement? *Answer:* It increased visibility and pushed Movement forward, but it also led to backlash and increased brutality and violence.

10 CIVIL WAR & EMANCIPATION

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is the Emancipation Proclamation? Who issued it and why? *Answer:* The Emancipation Proclamation was a military policy issued by Abraham Lincoln declaring people enslaved behind Confederate lines to be free. It allowed African Americans to serve in the Union army and navy.

KEY DETAILS What role did African American men play in their liberation and the Union’s victory in the Civil War? *Answer:* Tens of thousands of self-liberated enslaved people served in the Union army and navy. These soldiers and sailors “became the wave that the Union would ultimately ride to victory.”

INFERENCES How did Lincoln’s thoughts about the Civil War evolve, and what changed his ideas? *Answer:* Initially, he viewed the war as a means of preserving the Union only and favored colonization for African Americans; over time, he came to see emancipation and the arming of Black men as the only path to victory.

11 CONVICT LEASING

KEY DETAILS What is the “loophole” in 13th Amendment? *Answer:* People convicted of crimes can be forced into involuntary servitude.

INFERENCES How was convict leasing different than slavery? *Answer:* Convict laborers could be leased for less money than enslaved people could be purchased; there was no incentive not to work convicts to death; prisons begin to fill.

12 DOUBLE V CAMPAIGN OF WORLD WAR II

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was Double V Campaign? *Answer:* The Double V Campaign was launched by the *Pittsburgh Courier* in response to veterans returning from war without guarantee of equal protections under the law. Double V stands for “victory over fascism abroad, victory over racism at home.”

KEY DETAILS What was Red Summer of 1919? *Answer:* Black Americans returning from war were dehumanized, brutalized and murdered by white citizens and police.

INFERENCES Why did James G. Thompson’s “Should I Sacrifice to Live Half American?” resonate with the general public? *Answer:* His letter demanded full citizenship rights in exchange for sacrificing his life at war.

13 ELLA BAKER: THE MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Ella Baker was known by what nickname? *Answer:* She was known as the mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

KEY DETAILS How did civil rights leaders describe Ella Baker? *Answer:* She was an inspiring, energetic leader who honored people’s voices and encouraged them—especially young people—to speak out.

INFERENCES Which civil rights events and leaders did Ella Baker influence? *Answer:* The sit-in at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, North Carolina; the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Rosa Parks; John Lewis; Dr. King.

14 FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PATENT HOLDERS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who were the first African Americans to receive patents? *Answers:* Thomas Jennings (dry scouring), Judy Reed (dough kneeder) and Garrett Morgan (traffic light) were the first African Americans to receive patents.

KEY DETAILS What are some innovations and inventions created by Black people mentioned in the video? *Answer:* Traffic light, gas mask, shoemaking machine, folding bed.

INFERENCES What important decision did Garrett Morgan make about his invention, the traffic light? *Answer:* To sell his invention to General Electric because he, as an African American, wouldn’t have the same access to the market.

15 HOW THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS SAVED THEIR UNIVERSITY

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who were the Fisk Jubilee Singers? *Answer:* A singing group that became the lyrical voice of Reconstruction and brought African American spirituals to the larger world.

INFERENCES Why were the Fisk Jubilee Singers important for the entertainment industry at the time? *Answer:* Historically, most audiences only saw Black people portrayed in minstrel shows. The Fisk Jubilee Singers were audiences’ first introduction to Black religious traditions and music.

16 FORT MOSE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was Fort Mose? *Answer:* Fort Mose was an all-Black settlement—the first in colonial America—located near St Augustine, Florida. Enslaved people in South Carolina and Georgia fled to Spanish Florida where they could be free.

KEY DETAILS What was the Stono Rebellion? *Answer:* It was one of the largest slave revolts in history that occurred when enslaved people learned about Fort Mose and burned plantations on their way to seek freedom in Spanish Florida.

INFERENCES What happened to Fort Mose? *Answer:* The British seized Florida from Spain, and Fort Mose was destroyed.

17 FREDERICK DOUGLASS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is Frederick Douglass known for? *Answer:* He escaped from slavery, became an influential abolitionist speaker and writer, and was the most prominent African American leader of his generation. He was also the most photographed American of 19th century.

KEY DETAILS Why did Frederick Douglass wish to be photographed? *Answer:* To reclaim the image of Black people toward positive representation away from racist stereotypes

18 FREEDMAN'S BANK

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who were patrons of Freedman's Bank and what was its purpose? *Answer:* Newly emancipated Black people used the bank for loans and financial advice.

KEY DETAILS What was Freedman Bank's greatest flaw at the time? *Answer:* African Americans had no money to deposit or invest because no reparations were given for slavery.

INFERENCES What were the short and long-term effects of Freeman Bank's closing? *Answer:* Black account holders immediately lost money and lost trust in the government; generational wealth for families was lost.

19 HANK AARON: BREAKING THE HOME RUN RECORD

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Hank Aaron? *Answer:* Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron was one of baseball's greatest players. He started in the Negro Leagues and eventually eclipsed Babe Ruth's home-run record.

INFERENCES Why did Hank Aaron receive hate mail and death threats? *Answer:* Baseball was historically "America's game" played by white men. Aaron's home-run chase threatened the legacy of Babe Ruth, a white player.

20 THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What was the Harlem Renaissance? *Answer:* An iconic cultural period in African American history in New York during the 1920s, when Black artists, writers and musicians flourished.

KEY DETAILS Who were some Black artists who rose to prominence because of their bold, exciting music? *Answer:* Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Mamie Smith.

INFERENCES Why was the Harlem Renaissance a pivotal influence in New Negro Movement? *Answer:* Writers shared Black lived experiences; Black artists could finally be their full authentic selves.

21 HARRIET TUBMAN

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Why was Harriet Tubman called the "Moses of Her People"? *Answer:* She walked from Maryland to Pennsylvania over a dozen times, leading 70 enslaved people to freedom. Using her instructions and contacts, 70 more enslaved people found their way to freedom.

KEY DETAILS What other skills is Harriet Tubman known for? *Answer:* She worked for the Union army as a nurse and a spy during Civil War. She was the first woman to lead a major military operation in the history of the United States, liberating over 700 enslaved people during a raid of Black Union army troops along the Combahee River.

22 HENRIETTA LACKS: THE WOMAN WITH IMMORTAL CELLS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Henrietta Lacks and what is “HeLa”? *Answer:* She was a Black woman and farm worker whose cells were studied and led to advancements in medical science. Her cells were called “HeLa” to anonymize the source.

KEY DETAILS Why is the use of HeLa cells for research controversial? *Answer:* Henrietta Lacks’ cells were extracted and used for research without her consent; she (posthumously) and her family only recently received recognition and have never received financial compensation.

23 IDA B. WELLS: FEARLESS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER OF SOUTHERN HORRORS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is Ida B. Wells known for? *Answer:* She is known for her activism and investigative journalism on lynching in South; she used growing Black literacy to change the narrative and spread awareness about these ultra-violent crimes.

INFERENCES Why was Ida B. Wells’ life in danger? Why was she eventually driven out of Memphis? *Answer:* She wrote and published anti-lynching articles and drew attention to the wrongful extralegal convictions of African Americans. This angered a white lynch mob who came to the newspaper office looking for Wells and threatening her life.

24 JACK JOHNSON: WINNER OF THE “FIGHT OF THE CENTURY”

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Why was Jack Johnson the most controversial boxer in history? *Answer:* Johnson defeated two white opponents during Jim Crow; he married three white women; many white and Black people alike frowned upon his brash and flamboyant behavior.

KEY DETAILS How did Jack Johnson’s victory over the “Great White Hope” impact society? *Answer:* It spiked racial insecurity. Racial clashes across the country increased resulting in hundreds of injuries and dozens of deaths.

25 JACKIE ROBINSON

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Jackie Robinson? *Answer:* He was an extraordinary baseball player who fought segregation in the army, started baseball in the Negro Leagues and integrated Major League Baseball.

KEY DETAILS Who pressured major league baseball to integrate the sport? *Answer:* Black sports writers and the Black press.

INFERENCES What did Jackie Robinson do after baseball and why? *Answer:* He became a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement who supported protests, attended the March on Washington and raised money for the NAACP.

26 JESSE JACKSON’S RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY

KEY DETAILS Jesse Jackson was not the first Black person to run for president. Who was? *Answer:* Shirley Chisholm

INFERENCES Why were some people hopeful about Jesse Jackson’s presidential run? *Answer:* They were hopeful that he could become the first Black president and because he was running on an agenda representing the people and democracy.

27 JOHN LEWIS: THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was John Lewis? *Answer:* Lewis was an activist and organizer who became one of the most well-known civil rights leaders. He helped plan the March on Washington and was the youngest speaker at the event.

KEY DETAILS

What historic legislation was signed into law as result of John Lewis' leadership? *Answer:* Voting Rights Act of 1965

INFERENCES

What is John Lewis most known and recognized for? *Answer:* He fought for voting rights, led the march from Selma to Montgomery, and was brutalized by state troopers while crossing the Edmund Pettis Bridge on what is now known as "Bloody Sunday."

28 JUAN GARRIDO

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was Juan Garrido? *Answer:* He was a free Black man and conquistador (Spanish conqueror), as well as the first African to set foot on land that is now the United States.

INFERENCES

What is significant about Garrido's expedition with Ponce de León to Florida? *Answer:* As the first recorded Black person in what is now the U.S., he demonstrates that people of African descent occupied space in the New World without being enslaved.

29 KATHERINE JOHNSON

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Katherine Johnson and why did she receive Presidential Medal of Freedom? *Answer:* Katherine Johnson was a mathematical genius who worked at NASA and broke racial and gender barriers.

KEY DETAILS What milestones did Katherine Johnson accomplish? *Answer:* She went to high school at 10 years old, college at 15, and was one of three Black students—and the only woman—to integrate West Virginia University's graduate school.

30 THE L.A. RIOTS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What events led to the LA Riots in 1992? *Answer:* Increased violence and police brutality in LA were the context for the riots. The immediate cause was the acquittal of police officers on trial for the assault of Rodney King, a brutal attack caught on camera.

INFERENCES What were the short- and long-term effects of the LA Riots? *Answer:* Short-term effects were \$1 billion in property damage, at least 50 deaths and many more injuries. Long-term effects were nationwide concern about police brutality, poverty, racism and protests—concerns still relevant to the national conversation today.

31 LAND: 40 ACRES & A MULE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What does the phrase "40 Acres and a Mule" refer to? *Answer:* This phrase refers to the promise of land ownership for freed African Americans in the South at the end of the Civil War.

KEY DETAILS

Who developed the plan for redistribution of Confederate land? *Answer:* Union General William T. Sherman and 20 Black ministers and community leaders.

INFERENCES

What was significant about Sherman's Reserve? *Answer:* Newly freed slaves could gain economic independence by generating personal and generational wealth.

32 LYNCHING

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is lynching? *Answer:* Lynching refers to acts of domestic terror, including a grotesque form of mob rule without judge or jury. During lynchings, Black people were hanged and burned in public as a way to incite terror and fear among Black communities.

KEY DETAILS What infamous lynching catalyzed the Civil Rights Movement? *Answer:* Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy who was kidnapped and murdered after being accused of accosting a white woman. His mother demanded an open casket to show his brutalized body to the world.

INFERENCES What role did Black women and mothers play when lynching was at its peak? *Answer:* Emmett Till's mother demanding an open casket helped start a social movement; Ida B. Wells and her investigative reporting built the NAACP's platform; Michael Donald's mother fought the KKK at SCOTUS and won.

33 MADAME C.J. WALKER: THE FIRST BLACK MILLIONAIRESS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING How did Madame C.J. Walker become the first Black female millionaire? *Answer:* She created and sold pioneering hair products and founded the company; she was a master saleswoman and a marketing genius.

INFERENCES Beyond business, what gifts did Madame C.J. Walker possess? *Answer:* The ability to empower and mentor Black women entrepreneurs.

34 MALCOLM X: HOW DID HE INSPIRE A MOVEMENT?

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Malcolm X and how did his message differ from other civil rights leaders? *Answer:* Malcolm X was inspired by the Nation of Islam and embraced empowerment "by any means necessary." He inspired the Black Nationalist movement through his focus on Black self-defense and Black power.

KEY DETAILS How did Malcolm X's ideologies inform Black Power movement? *Answer:* He demanded Black dignity and self-respect; for example, he encouraged replacing words like *negro* and *colored* with *Black* and *Afro American*.

35 MARCUS GARVEY

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING Who was Marcus Garvey? *Answer:* Garvey is the founder and leader of Universal Negro Improvement Association, which was created to unite all Black people across world. He and his organization influenced the Back to Africa and Black Nationalist movements.

KEY DETAILS What did Marcus Garvey establish to carry out his vision of Black people reclaiming Africa? *Answer:* He established the Black Star Line, a steamship line used to transport African Americans interested in emigrating to Africa.

INFERENCES What was radical about Marcus Garvey's message at the time? *Answer:* He was a charismatic Black man encouraging Black pride and challenging African Americans to reclaim Africa at a time when lynching was rampant.

36 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.: WAS HIS “I HAVE A DREAM” SPEECH IMPROVISED?

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is significant about Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech? *Answers will vary and may include:* This speech was many white Americans’ first experience with the Black Baptist oratorical tradition; the speech has lasting impact today.

KEY DETAILS Why is Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech so moving for many Americans? *Answer:* The famous refrain showed Americans, especially white Americans, the power of the Black Baptist oratorical tradition for the first time.

INFERENCES For what reasons might Dr. King have changed his speech halfway through? *Answer:* People say his favorite singer, Mahalia Jackson, prompted him to tell the fading audience about his dream.

37 MAYA ANGELOU: 20TH CENTURY RENAISSANCE WOMAN

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is Maya Angelou known for? *Answer:* She was famous for being a writer but she was also a singer, dancer, actor, filmmaker, professor and political activist.

KEY DETAILS To which famous civil rights leaders and campaigns was Maya Angelou connected? *Answer:* Dr. King; the Poor Peoples Campaign; Malcolm X; the Black liberation movement.

INFERENCES Why does Maya Angelou’s life and writing inspire people, especially Black women? *Answers will vary and may include:* After years spent in silence, she overcame adversity to inspire millions of people through her writing.

38 MIGRATIONS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What does “migrations” refer to in this video? *Answer:* Migrations refer to waves of Black people leaving the South during various periods, including from Reconstruction through the Jim Crow era, in search of equal rights, personal safety and economic opportunities.

KEY DETAILS Name key migrations in U.S. history? *Answer:* The Great Exodus, beginning 1879 (post Civil War); the Great Migration (post Jim Crow); the Second Great Migration post (WW2).

INFERENCES What were the results of Black migration to the North? *Answer:* Black urban population hubs were cultural and political centers that influenced movements, e.g., Detroit (the birthplace of Motown) and New York City (the Harlem Renaissance).

39 OBAMA’S ELECTION

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was historic about Barack Obama’s election in 2008? *Answer:* Obama is the first Black President of United States. His election showed African Americans that a family that looked like theirs could occupy the White House.

KEY DETAILS Why were people skeptical about Obama’s ability to win the presidency? *Answer:* He was a first-term Senator; people wondered if Americans would vote for a Black man.

INFERENCES Why did then-candidate Obama feel compelled to deliver a speech on race in Philadelphia during the lead-up to the election? *Answer:* He was running for president so votes were on the line. He wanted to address race head-on by sharing his story while delivering a unifying message.

40 OSCAR MICHEAUX

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was Oscar Micheaux?

Answer: He was the first major Black filmmaker to independently write and produce his own films.

KEY DETAILS

What is *The Homesteader*? *Answer:* It is a book written and published by Oscar Micheaux, which he eventually adapted into a silent film that he independently produced.

INFERENCES

What is significant about Oscar Micheaux's work? *Answer:* It portrayed Black people in a way that challenged stereotypes during the era of *The Birth of a Nation*. It included strong, diverse characters and social themes that were not yet evident in mainstream media.

41 RECONSTRUCTION: THE VOTE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is significant about Reconstruction era? *Answer:* After the Civil War, Black men had the right to vote and many Black Americans were elected to public office for the first time. It was the first exercise in interracial democracy in the United States.

KEY DETAILS

Who were the first Black men to hold political office during Reconstruction? *Answer:* Hiram Revels was the first African American in the U.S. Senate; Joseph Rainey was the first Black U.S. Congressman.

INFERENCES

Why was there backwards movement in the 44th Congress after so much progress? *Answers will vary and may include:* African American access to voting and other civil rights were rolled back.

42 ROBERT SMALLS: A SLAVE WHO SAILED HIMSELF TO FREEDOM

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was Robert Smalls? *Answer:* Smalls was an enslaved man forced into a Confederate military troop who planned and executed his escape by setting sail on a Confederate ship, freeing the entire crew.

KEY DETAILS

What steps did Robert Smalls take to ensure successful emancipation? *Answer:* He observed the ship and crew for months, impersonated the captain, passed through Confederate check points, and replaced flags with white sheets when arriving in Union territory to evade attack.

INFERENCES

Why is Robert Smalls viewed as a hero of the Civil War and Reconstruction? *Answers will vary and may include:* He liberated himself in plain sight; he led a group of enslaved people to freedom.

43 SCHOOL INTEGRATION

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is *Brown v Board of Education*? *Answer:* It is the landmark 1954 SCOTUS ruling that found segregated public schools to be unconstitutional.

KEY DETAILS

What's significant about Boston's role in school integration? *Answer:* In 1974, a federal judge ruled that students must be bused to racially balance the school system.

INFERENCES

Why were middle-class white people opposed to integration, and what were the consequences? *Answer:* They didn't want integrated public schools because white schools received more resources and money; with integration that would no longer be the case.

44 SECOND MIDDLE PASSAGE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was the Second Middle Passage? *Answer:* The Second Middle Passage is the largest forced migration in U.S. history, a domestic slave trade system that involved the sale and transport of enslaved people to the deep South and the West.

KEY DETAILS What caused the Second Middle Passage? *Answer:* Eli Whitney's cotton gin and newly acquired Native lands both required more labor. These factors generated a profit for wealthy, land-owning, slave-holding white people.

INFERENCES What were the consequences of the Second Middle Passage? *Answer:* It scrambled communities, separated relatives and devastated Black families for generations.

45 SEPARATE BUT EQUAL: HOMER PLESSY AND THE CASE THAT UPHELD THE COLOR LINE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What does the phrase, "separate but equal" encompass? *Answer:* This phrase refers to racial segregation across systems made constitutional in *Plessy v Ferguson*.

KEY DETAILS Who is Homer Plessy and why is his story important? *Answer:* He was an African American shoemaker from New Orleans, Louisiana, who sued the state because of segregated seating on a train car. He lost when SCOTUS ruled that separate-but-equal accommodations are constitutional.

46 SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: THE FIRST BLACK CONGRESSWOMAN

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was Shirley Chisholm? *Answer:* Chisholm was the first African American woman to serve in U.S. Congress. She was also the first Black person to run for president.

KEY DETAILS What did Shirley Chisholm's run for president represent? *Answer:* It represented a new wave of liberal politics that included intersections of the Civil Rights Movement (race) and the Women's Movement (gender).

INFERENCES What is one challenge about how we remember and talk about Black history and civil rights history? *Answers will vary and may include:* Black and civil rights history are overwhelmingly remembered in terms of male leadership.

47 SOJOURNER TRUTH: OPRAH'S NO. 1 BLACK HISTORY HEROINE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who was Sojourner Truth? *Answer:* She was a formerly enslaved African American woman who ran away, changed her name, and became an activist and speaker for abolition and women's rights.

KEY DETAILS What made Sojourner Truth a feminist icon? *Answer:* She delivered a speech in 1851 in which she allegedly asked the famous question, "Ain't I a Woman?"

INFERENCES What might be surprising about Sojourner Truth writing a book? *Answer:* She couldn't read or write, so she dictated her words to a white woman.

48 SOUL TRAIN

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What is *Soul Train*? *Answer:* *Soul Train* was a variety television show created and hosted by radio host Don Cornelius. Featuring mostly Black dancers and entertainers, it became a cultural phenomenon.

KEY DETAILS What did *Soul Train* bring to American homes?

Answer: Black music, culture and regional dances; Black love, peace and soul; it showed Black teenagers more positively than they were portrayed in the national news.

INFERENCES What was revolutionary about *Soul Train*? *Answer:* It was a Black program created by Black people. It showed Black people and Black culture in a positive way. It is one of the longest running syndicated TV programs in American history.

49 THE BIRTH OF A NATION AND THE ORIGINS OF THE NAACP

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What is *The Birth of a Nation*? *Answer:* It was America's first full-length film. Although it was a technological advancement for the time, the film was racist propaganda steeped in tropes and stereotypes about Black people, especially casting Black men as dangerous.

KEY DETAILS How did the campaign against *The Birth of a Nation* galvanize the NAACP? *Answer:* The campaign garnered a great deal of support for the NAACP and grew its national prominence because people agreed with the stance that the film was blatantly racist.

50 THE BIRTH OF HIP-HOP

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who is credited with starting hip-hop and how was it started? *Answer:* DJ Kool Herc threw a party in the Bronx where he used a turntable to create a new sound called "the break."

KEY DETAILS How did hip-hop start spreading during its early days in New York City? *Answer:* On the streets, also known as the underground, rappers would rhyme over boombox beats. Eventually, cassette tapes would spread hand to hand, and soon hip-hop found itself on the radio.

INFERENCES How is hip-hop more than a musical genre? *Answer:* Hip-hop artists report and comment on the social, political and cultural experiences of African Americans.

51 THE BIRTH OF JAZZ

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

How did jazz come to fruition? *Answer:* New Orleans was a cultural melting pot where African, Latin and European forms and styles of music were played, largely by African American musicians and artists.

KEY DETAILS Who were some famous jazz artists, singers and musicians? *Answer:* Louis Armstrong, James Reese Europe, Buddy Bolden, Jelly Roll Morton

INFERENCES What was controversial about jazz music at its founding? *Answer:* It was played in New Orleans' red-light district, which associated the music with promiscuity.

52 THE BIRTH OF THE BLACK PANTHERS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING What was the Black Panther Party? *Answer:* It was a social program launched by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton to serve the Black community and defend it from racism and violence, including police brutality.

KEY DETAILS What are the lesser-known programs of the Black Panther Party? *Answer:* Free medical care; free clothing drives; free breakfast for school children. All three later informed federal programs.

53 THE BLACK CHURCH

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What predicated the founding of the Black Church? *Answer:* Enslavers previously used Christianity to pacify enslaved people; African Americans transformed Christianity, creating a new culture that supported community and resistance.

KEY DETAILS How was the Black Church part of the freedom struggle? *Answer:* It took an abolitionist stance; Black religious leaders led the community in military services, by holding public office and by organizing social movements.

INFERENCES What tactics of the Black Church were used in the Civil Rights Movement by leaders like Dr. King? *Answer:* Combining religion with nonviolent resistance; organizing via congregations; utilizing prophetic tradition, oration and spirituals/music.

54 THE BLACK PRESS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

How was *Freedom's Journal* important in establishing the Black press? *Answer:* It proved there was Black readership for Black publications in the U.S.

KEY DETAILS Who were key figures and publications in establishing the Black press? *Answer:* Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm of *Freedom's Journal*; Frederick Douglass of *The North Star*; Pauline Hopkins of *The Colored American*; *Jet*; *Ebony*.

INFERENCES Why is the Black press important? *Answer:* It gave Black writers a platform to speak truth to power; it gave African Americans a voice outside of mainstream media; and it allowed Black people to share their own stories.

55 THE FIRST UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was the First Underground Railroad? *Answer:* The first underground railroad was a route to freedom for enslaved people who fled British rule in the North to Spanish Florida in the South, which had become a sanctuary for Black Americans.

KEY DETAILS What ended free Black settlements in Spanish Florida? *Answer:* Thomas Jefferson and the government pressured Spain to end its agreement with former slaves; the U.S. eventually seized the land from Spain.

INFERENCES What similarities and differences exist between First and Second Underground Railroads (Civil War and Reconstruction)? *Answer:* Similarity: Both were travelled by enslaved people determined to be free. Difference: The First ran North to South, and the Second ran South to North.

56 THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS OF WWI

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Who are the Harlem Hellfighters? *Answer:* The Black troop of the 396th regiment in the segregated New York National Guard during WWI.

KEY DETAILS What are the Harlem Hellfighters known for? *Answer:* They were the most decorated troop during WWI. They were talented musicians who introduced jazz music to Europe. They were assigned to France to fight on the front lines. They fought longer than any other troop during the war.

INFERENCES Why were the Harlem Hellfighters not recognized until 2015 by President Obama? *Answers will vary and may include:* It required the election of a Black president to acknowledge the importance of Black veterans.

57 THE TUSKEGEE STUDY

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was the Tuskegee Study? *Answer:* The Tuskegee Study was an unethical medical research project conducted on 600 poor Black men to examine the effects of untreated syphilis.

KEY DETAILS Why was the Tuskegee Study unethical? *Answer:* No consent was given by African American male participants. The U.S. government deceived the subjects about the intent of the study and about withholding treatment. Lack of treatment led to complications and death for many men.

INFERENCES What are the effects of the Tuskegee Study? *Answer:* Immediately, medical complications and death; long-term, mistrust of the U.S. government and of medical professionals by the Black community.

58 THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade? *Answer:* Europeans purchased and transported people from West and Central African via ships across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World. An estimated 12.5 million enslaved people were transported from Africa to North America between 1525 and 1866.

KEY DETAILS What was inhumane about the Transatlantic Slave Trade and First Middle Passage? *Answer:* In addition to engaging in mass kidnapping, enslavers shackled men and women together and stacked them on top of one another in a practice called “tight packing” to try to get as many enslaved people as possible onto a ship at one time.

INFERENCES If the Transatlantic Slave Trade was banned by Congress in 1808, why did the trading of enslaved Africans continue? *Answer:* Enslavers continued to smuggle Africans into the country.

59 THE TULSA RACE RIOTS: BLACK WALL STREET

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What were the Tulsa Race Riots? *Answer:* In 1921, a white lynch mob raided and looted the thriving Greenwood community after a Black man was accused of accosting a white woman. A mob assaulted, brutalized and murdered Black residents, and destroyed Black property for days.

KEY DETAILS What is significant about Tulsa in the early 1900s? *Answer:* The Greenwood neighborhood was home to “Black Wall Street,” a thriving business community established by Black entrepreneurs.

INFERENCES What were the short- and long-term effects of Tulsa Race Riots? *Answers will vary and may include:* Mass destruction of property; death; financial loss; Black Wall Street never recovered.

60 W.E.B. DU BOIS

MAIN IDEA / GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

What was “The Exhibition of American Negroes,” and what was its purpose? *Answer:* It was an exhibition by W.E.B. Du Bois, displaying over 350 photos of African Americans which served to challenge racist stereotypes and recast how African Americans were perceived.

KEY DETAILS Who is W.E.B. Du Bois? *Answer:* He was a well-known author, activist and pioneering scholar in sociology and history.

INFERENCES How did W.E.B. Du Bois’ exhibition influence the New Negro Movement? *Answer:* His exhibition countered Jim Crow imagery by showing that Black people could be highly educated, cosmopolitan and middle class.
