

### **Differentiated Instruction (engaging students with significant disabilities):**

- Enlarge the Venn diagram and have choice items available on cards. The student can place the card on the appropriate place on the diagram that illustrates "same" versus "different".
- The students can also write their responses for "same" and "different" on poster board using different colors. The student may also choose which side to place the card based on coloring or prompts (verbal, physical).
- Read the true narratives of teenaged hoboes in Uys, E.L. (2003). *Riding the rails: Teenagers on the move during the Great Depression*. New York: Routledge.
- Read about African American Artists of the Depression Era (Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong). Find out how their lives compared and contrasted with most African Americans during the Depression.
- Read and report about The Scottsboro Boys, teenaged sharecropping, teenagers in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or Works Progress Administration (WPA).
- Watch the DVD, *Riding the Rails*. Identify three ways in which the lives of Depression-era kids are different than your own life.
- Using the photograph of Poor African Americans in the Depression (included), describe things that you notice about the picture. Compare what you see with your own home, family, and life.

Poor African Americans in the Great Depression. credit: Library of Congress



### **c. De-Briefing**

How do the challenges faced by African American youth in the Great Depression compare to today's challenges? Are young people better off now or then? Why?

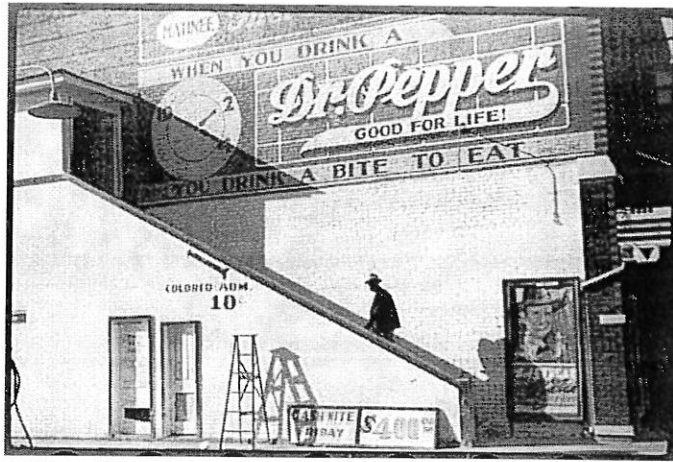
### **Assessment**

Students will compare and contrast the lives of Depression-era African Americans with their own lives by doing one or both activities:

- (a) write an essay
- (b) create a scrapbook of drawn and photographic images. Include captions with each drawing or photograph (available in web resources).

### **Performance Prompt**

Look at the picture of the Poor African Americans included in this unit. Write an essay [or create a collage] that compares the lives of Depression-era African Americans with the lives of you and your family.



**Figure 1.** Colored entrance of movie house, Belzoni, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi. Marion Post Wolcott, photographer, c. October 1939. <http://memory.loc.gov/pnp/fsa/8a41000/8a41100/8a41115r.jpg>



**Figure 2.** Rex theater for Colored People. Leland, Mississippi. Marion Post Wolcott, photographer. November 1939. <http://memory.loc.gov/pnp/fsa/8c10000/8c10900/8c10946r.jpg>



**Figure 3.** Drinking fountain on the county courthouse lawn. Halifax, North Carolina. John Vachon, photographer. April 1938. <http://memory.loc.gov/pnp/ppmsc/00200/00216r.jpg>

Some of Oregon's historic moments in the African American culture:

- 1787: Marcus Lopez, first black to set foot on Oregon soil (at least the first recorded instance).
- 1857: Oregon Constitutional Convention in Salem. Slavery voted down, but free blacks were not permitted in state.
- 1903: McCants Steward, first African American admitted to Oregon Bar.
- 1904: George Hardin, first African-American officer appointed to the Portland Police Bureau.
- 1921: Ku Klux Klan formed in Oregon.
- 1922: Beatrice Cannady, first African American woman admitted to the Oregon Bar.
- 1926: Voters repeal section of Oregon Constitution outlawing African Americans from the state.
- 1927: Voters repeal section of Oregon Constitution outlawing African Americans and Chinese from voting.
- 1941: Shipbuilding boom begins in Portland, attracting blacks from southern states.
- 1948: William Tebeau, first African American male to graduate from Oregon State University.
- 1949: Fair Employment Practices Act passed.
- 1951: State Vocational School Act passed, which banned racial discrimination in schools.
- 1952: Real estate industry begins allowing home sales to African Americans in white neighborhoods.
- 1953: State Public Accommodations Act passed, which repealed "Jim Crow" laws.
- 1957: State Fair Housing Act passed.
- 1969: Black Studies Program established at Portland State University.
- 1972: William McCoy, first African American elected to Oregon Legislature.

# The Architecture of Whiteness in Oregon

## Conquest and Exclusion

1830 - 1880

- 1830-1834 Disease ravages the native populations of the Columbia and Willamette valley reducing their numbers from an estimated 15,000 to less than 2,000.
- 1849 Kanakas, otherwise known as Hawaiians, are denied citizenship and land rights despite having labored in the northwest for over half a century.
- 1856 Oregon removes remaining Native Americans in Willamette Valley to reservations.
- 1857 Popular ratification of a Black Exclusion clause to the Oregon Constitution making it unlawful for any person of African descent to reside within the Oregon borders. The clause was finally removed in 1926.
- 1866 The Oregon legislature passes a miscegenation law making it unlawful for any white person to "intermarry with any Negro, chinese, or any person having one-fourth or more negro, chinese or kanaka blood, or any person having more than one-half Indian blood." This law was not repealed until 1959.

## Violence and Segregation

1880 - 1930

- 1886 A series of threats, round-ups, and firebombings drives approximately half of the Chinese residents from Oregon.
- 1905 A Portland judge sets a national precedent allowing theaters to segregate customers by race.
- 1919 The Portland Realty Board adopts a measure to prevent members from selling property in white neighborhoods to blacks or Asians.
- 1920 Bhagat Singh Thind, a United States veteran born in Punjab, is denied citizenship in Oregon which leads to a Supreme Court case dismissing Thind's claims that he is an Aryan. The Supreme Court rules, "The words of familiar speech, which were used by the original framers of the law, were intended to include only the type of man whom they knew as white."
- 1923 Oregon legislature passes a law prohibiting "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning land and businesses, then directs each county to report all Chinese and Japanese who own land.
- 1924 The Klan holds statewide rallies in Eugene and Tillamook. In Eugene, the Klan parades to the music of the Eugene City Band and burns a cross on Skinner's Butte. In Tillamook, the mayor presents the organization with a key to the city.

## Restriction, Relocation, and Backlash

1930 - 1980

- 1942 Oregon is declared part of military areas 1 and 2, which can exclude or restrict the movements of any person. 110,000 Japanese Americans are relocated from areas 1 and 2, which include Oregon, California, Washington and Arizona.
- 1945 The Hood River chapter of the American Legion removes the names of 17 Japanese American veterans from their Honor Roll.
- 1948 The Housing Authority of Portland decides not to rebuild public housing after a disastrous flood. The decision leaves nearly 2/3 of Portland's African American population homeless.
- 1950's - 1960's Oregon Sundown Laws are kept on the books and enforced into the 1960's. *"termination"*
- Early 1960's - Following the implementation of a Fair Housing Act in 1959, some white Portland residents resort to violence to maintain the residential color-line.
- 1974 Judge George Boldt rules that the treaty with the Indians of the Puget Sound entitle them to half of all fish in the area. Boldt received several death threats, was accused of having an Indian mistress, and was burned in effigy.

## Denial and Retrenchment

1980 - Present

- 1994 Oregon Health plan denies coverage to seasonal workers who at the time were 70% Hispanic.
- 1995 African Americans make up 1.77% of the population of Oregon and are 12.67% of the Oregon prison population. Although Oregon crime rates go down, Oregon continues to appropriate money for building new prisons.
- 1997 Oregon legislature fails to appropriate enough money to cover the over 6,000 legal immigrants cut off from public assistance by the federal government.
- 1997-1998 An African American professor at UO is twice accosted by Eugene police looking for a suspect.
- 1998 On May 13th, the INS engages in its largest raid in Lane County detaining 78 people.