

ACTIVITY : JIM CROW LAWS

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following laws and identify those areas of society and public life affected by the specific Jim Crow or segregation law. For example, some areas of life affected by these laws include education, marriage, transportation, law enforcement, etc.



Segregated Public Bus Sign, ca 1940s-1950s.
Source: L1979-37_030, Stetson Kennedy Papers, Southern Labor Archives, Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta.

An Act to Establish a System of Public Instruction, 1870

The Georgia legislature established a State Board of Education and divided the state in several different districts. Each district could elect three school officials who would manage the local school system and hire teachers. The law stated that white and black students could not be taught together. It also required that the school houses, the length of the school year, and requirements for teachers should be the same in schools for whites and blacks.

Area Affected: _____.

Equal Accommodations and Separate Cars, 1890-1891

The Georgia legislature made all railroads in state provide equal accommodations in separate cars for white and African American passengers. Street car companies also had to separate white and black riders to the fullest possible extent.

Area Affected: _____.

Georgia State Reformatory Established, 1905

The Georgia legislature established a youth detention center for all people sixteen and younger, who had been convicted of a crime that did not require life imprisonment or death. The detention center was required to keep male and female residents separated and that black and white residents separated in their work and study.

Area Affected: _____.

Georgia State Sanitarium, Training School for Nurses, 1910

The General Assembly of Georgia established a training school for white nurses employed by the Georgia State Sanitarium (a hospital that provided long-term medical treatment). The training school had the power to write the rules for nursing education, provide a series of lectures by doctors, and give diplomas to all nursing graduates.

Area Affected: _____.

Mauk, Georgia Cemeteries, 1913

The mayor and city council of Mauk, Georgia had the power to establish cemeteries to bury the dead and spend the necessary money to maintain the cemeteries. This law forbid African Americans and whites from being buried in the same cemetery.

Area Affected: _____.

JIM CROW LAWS - CONTINUED

Rome, Georgia Voting Qualifications, 1918

Only those who are qualified to vote in Georgia, who have registered their names, occupations, ages, and residences with the secretary of the Rome City Commission, and have paid all taxes, fines, and other debts are allowed to vote in local elections in Rome.

Area Affected: _____.

Rules for Billiard Rooms, 1925

The Georgia legislature would grant a license to operate a Billiard Rooms (a place where people could play pool) only to U.S. citizens over the age of 21, who had never been convicted of a felony, and who agreed to only serve customers of their own race.

Area Affected: _____.

Persons of Color and Marriage, 1927

The Georgia legislature defined the term "white person" to include only those who had no trace of African, West Indian, Asiatic Indian, Mongolian, Japanese, or Chinese blood. It was a felony punishable by at least a year in prison for a white person to marry someone who was not white.

Area Affected: _____.

Motor Transportation for Hire, 1929

The Georgia legislature passed a law that put in place rules for those involved in the business of transporting people and property by cars on state highways. Transportation businesses were not allowed to charge different rates or fares to different people. Transportation companies had the choice to serve only white passengers, only black passengers, or both black and white passengers as long as they could be seated in separate parts of the vehicle.

Area Affected: _____.

Police Officers Retirement System, 1956

The Georgia legislature established a system to pay **benefits** to retired and disabled police officers or the families of officers who died while in service, unless the officer had refused or failed to enforce state laws requiring racial segregation.

Area Affected: _____.

ANSWER KEY

Activity : Jim Crow Laws

Possible responses include:

- An Act to Establish a System of Public Instruction - Education
- Equal Accommodations and Separate Cars -Transportation
- Georgia State Reformatory Established - Education, Law Enforcement, or Prisons
- Georgia State Sanitarium - Education or Healthcare
- Mauk, Georgia Cemeteries - Death or Burial
- Rome, Georgia Voting Qualifications - Voting
- Rules for Billiard Rooms - Entertainment or Leisure
- Persons of Color in Marriage - Marriage
- Motor Transportation for Hire - Transportation
- Police Officers Retirement System - Retirement or Law Enforcement

Further Information on the Civil
Rights Movement in Rome,
Georgia is available at:
<https://sites.berry.edu/civilrights/>

