

## Fly Away Jim Crow



Following the 1896 Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, "Jim Crow laws," which discriminated against African Americans, were justified as offering "separate but equal" accommodations. Overturned in 1954 by the case *Brown v. Board of Education*, segregation began long before *Plessy*. Answer these questions on the history of Jim Crow.

1. The term "Jim Crow" originally referred to:

- A popular pre-Civil War newspaper cartoon character of a crow, which represented a white Southern racist
- A popular burlesque song and theatrical dance number, written about 1830 and performed by a white actor in blackface for enthusiastic crowds in the U.S. and abroad
- The nickname of a Georgia State legislator, who led efforts to make it illegal for free blacks to reside in the state

2. "Jim Crow cars" were separate railway passenger cars in which blacks were forced to travel, instead of in the passenger cars in which whites took their seats. The term "Jim Crow cars" first came into use:

- In the mid-1830s, in Massachusetts and Connecticut
- Immediately after the Civil War, in the cotton-growing states of the Deep South
- Along the railroad lines to the far Western states in the 1870s, where passengers typically spent many days together traveling to their destinations

3. Among the very first deliberate African American challengers to Jim Crow practices in public transportation was:

- Rosa Parks, who refused, in 1955, to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, AL public bus
- Frederick Douglass, who refused, in 1841, to give up the first-class seat on the Eastern Railroad he took when he boarded the train at Newburyport, MA, and move to the train's Jim Crow car
- Homer Plessy, who refused, in 1892, to move from the "whites only" car on the East Louisiana Railway, for which he had bought a first-class ticket, to the "coloreds only" car

4. After the Civil War, the practice of formally segregating whites and blacks working in Federal Government offices was instituted during the administration of which U.S. President?

- Rutherford B. Hayes
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Woodrow Wilson

Sources:

"Colored People North and Colored People South," letter to the editor, *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, December 14, 1855.

"Race Policy Problem," *Washington Post*, September 30, 1913.

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>