

UNIT FOUR

GLOSSARY

13th Amendment

this change to the U.S. Constitution, ratified after the Civil War in 1865, abolished slavery in the United States

activist

a person who works to bring about change and fights for a cause they believe in

blackface

a type of makeup used to imitate Black people and considered to be inappropriate today

chain gang

the practice of chaining prisoners together to perform forced labor, such as road construction or farming

chain migration

the process by which migrants from a certain town or community follow others from that area to a new destination

civil rights

the freedoms guaranteed to citizens that protect them from discrimination and ensure equality for all people

convict leasing

a system in which mostly southern states hired out prisoners to perform forced labor for private business in exchange for a fee

discrimination

unfair treatment of a person or group based on prejudice

emigration

the act of leaving one place in order to settle in another location

exodus

the departure of a large number of people from a particular place or region

generalization

a statement or idea that takes one or a few facts and applies them more broadly; taking small examples and using them to make bigger points

ghetto

a neighborhood that is crowded, run-down and poor

Great Migration

from 1916–1970, about 6 million Black people moved from the U.S. South to the North and West to escape segregation and in search of better housing, work and education opportunities

The Green Book

a guidebook published from 1936–1966, which listed restaurants, hotels, gas stations and other places friendly to Black people taking road trips during the era of Jim Crow segregation

Harlem Renaissance

the period in the 1920s and 1930s, centered in the Manhattan neighborhood of Harlem, in which Black culture and arts flourished

housing project

a building or group of buildings funded by the government in order to keep rents affordable for working people

inequity

injustice or unfairness

involuntary servitude

a legal term for a person being forced to work against their will to benefit another individual, business or government

Jim Crow

a fictional minstrel character created in the 1830s, depicting a clumsy and dim-witted enslaved man; "Jim Crow" was a common insult for Black people

Jim Crow laws

laws in place from 1876–1965 that segregated (separated) Black people from white people and limited their opportunity to vote, hold jobs, get an education and enjoy other freedoms

mass incarceration

the unique way in which the U.S. has imprisoned large numbers of people, especially people of color

migration/migrant

the act of moving from one place to another/a person who moves from one place to another to find work or better living conditions

minstrel show

an American form of racist entertainment that was popular from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, in which mostly white actors put on blackface and mocked Black people through songs, dances and comedy

the "new Jim Crow"

the mass incarceration and control of Black people through the criminal justice system, including prison, probation and parole

New Negro Movement

the development, during the 1920s, of a renewed sense of Black pride, cultural expression, economic independence and political change

oppression/oppressive

the condition of being controlled in cruel and unfair ways

redlining

a process by which banks and other lenders refuse to offer home loans on an equal basis to customers due to the racial makeup of their neighborhood

Red Summer

a period in 1919 during which white supremacist terrorism and racial riots took place in dozens of U.S. cities, partly in response to the growth of the Black population in the North

segregate/segregation

separate/the act of keeping different groups separate from each other; de jure segregation is enforced by law while de facto segregation refers to separation by "fact" or custom

"separate but equal"

In the court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racially separate facilities, if equal, did not violate the Constitution; the Court later reversed this idea in the case *Brown v. Board of Education*, when it ruled that segregation is a form of discrimination.

sit-in

a type of protest where people gather in a place and refuse to leave; during the 1950s and 1960s, sit-ins at lunch counters were held to protest segregation in restaurants and other spaces

slum

a run-down area of a city with poor living conditions

stereotype

a generalization about a person or group without regard for individual differences; the false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way

suburban

a community located outside but close to a city

urban

a city or the people who live in a city

vagrancy

the state of being without a home or job; following the Civil War, vagrancy laws were unfairly used to arrest Black people for not working, working at jobs unrecognized by whites or gathering in public places