

Tulsa: Terror and Triumph

Critical Thinking & Discussion Questions

Grades K-2

Racism, Tension, and Problem-Solving

Why did slavery begin in the United States? What did slaves do? Where were they from? What did the slide deck say about American Indian tribes and slaves?

How did the Ku Klux Klan harm Blacks? How did KKK members keep from getting caught? Why would KKK members have hurt White people?

Why is it helpful to be friends with people of different skin colors?

Why do we get angry? What are things people do when they overreact? What are good ways to end an argument with someone?

Injustice and Overcoming

Most of the people who burned down the buildings in Greenwood (Black Wall Street) did not get in trouble. Why do you think this is so?

What is the role of a judge and the legal system? What do we do when a friend or sibling accuses us of doing something wrong? What do we do if an authority figure (teacher, judge, policeman, parent) does not punish the person who accused us?

How do you feel when a toy breaks or something you love gets messed up by someone else? What have you done when an art project gets messed up or a Lego or block building gets knocked down?

What is the best way to respond to wrongdoing? How will you respond if a teacher or a parent does not end a situation fairly?

How do you think the Black residents felt when they had to clean up the mess that someone else made? What did Martin Luther King, Jr. say we should do when we're angry?

What lessons can we learn from the residents who rebuilt their city after it was burned down?

Grades 3-5

Racism, Tension, and Problem-Solving

Did you know that American Indian tribes owned slaves? If not, why do you think this information is little known? Why would people who understood suffering and racism, be unkind to others?

How can secretive groups do harm to others? What do you know about the Ku Klux Klan? How did the Ku Klux Klan harm Blacks? How did KKK members keep from getting caught? Why would they have hurt white people? Why is it helpful to be friends with people with different skin colors?

Why do we get angry? What are things people do when they overreact? How can something get “blown out of proportion” or get out of hand? What can or should be done to prevent this from happening? What are good ways to end an argument with someone?

What virtues help situations not get out of hand? (e.g., patience, self-control, humility, courage, compassion)

Injustice and Overcoming

Very few of the rioters were brought to justice after the Tulsa massacre. Why do you think this is so?

What is the role of a judge and the legal system? What do we do when a friend or sibling accuses us of doing something wrong? What do we do if an authority figure (teacher, judge, policeman, parent) does not punish the person who accuses us?

What lessons can we learn from the residents who were determined to rebuild Greenwood? How can resentment and depression keep a person from overcoming a challenge?

What is the best way to respond to injustice? What would MLK say? How do different faith traditions respond to injustice?

Grades 6-8

Racism, Tension, and Problem-Solving

What did the slide deck say about American Indian tribes and slaves? Why do you think this information is not widely known? Why would people who understood suffering and racism, be unkind to others?

What do you know about the Ku Klux Klan? Why was membership secret? Why did they form? Did they only target Blacks? How did they operate in Tulsa? Do they still exist? Why is it helpful to be friends with people with different skin colors?

The precipitating event that started the race riots led to widespread rumors and mob action. Can you think of any other historical incidents that started as a minor or unclear event and spiraled out of control?

Why do we get angry? What are things people do when they overreact? Share an incident when you saw something get “blown out of proportion” and get out of hand. Why do you think this sometimes happens? What can be done to prevent it?

What were the pros and cons of WWI veterans being among those who gathered at the courthouse? Should the residents in neighborhoods or communities use vigilantism?

Why do mobs of people sometimes behave differently than the individuals within the mob might behave if they were one-on-one? When is there safety in numbers? How can a gathering of people produce a dangerous atmosphere? Why is it helpful to solve a conflict one and one? When is a mediator needed?

Injustice and Overcoming

Very few of the assailants and perpetrators were ever identified or brought to justice after the Tulsa massacre. Why do you think this is so?

What lessons can be learned from the rebuilding efforts and the determination of the residents? How can bitterness and depression affect a person's determination to produce a positive and redemptive outcome?

What is the role of a judge, the legal system and law enforcement? What do we do if an authority figure (teacher, judge, policeman, parent) does not punish the person who accuses us? What do we do when a friend or stranger accuses us of committing a crime?

What is the best way to respond to injustice? What would MLK say? How do different faith traditions respond to injustice?

Should descendants of Greenwood residents receive restitution for the destruction done to the properties, which would have provided them an inheritance? How would the state of Oklahoma measure property value, profit loss, and pain and suffering in order to provide such restitution?