

Round 2: Primary Source: Excerpt 1

Directions: Read the question at the bottom of this sheet. As you are reading, highlight/underline and words, phrases, or sentences that would help you answer that question.

Excerpts from: The Notes on the State of Virginia

By Thomas Jefferson, 1785. Chapter 14: "Laws."

It will probably be asked, Why not retain and incorporate the blacks into the United States, and thus save the expense of supplying, by *importation* (bringing in) of white settlers, the vacancies they will leave? Deep rooted *prejudices* (preconceived opinions) entertained by the whites; ten thousand recollections, by the blacks, of the injuries they have sustained; the real *distinctions* (differences) which nature has made; and many other circumstances, will divide us into parties...

To these objections, which are political, may be added others, which are physical and moral. The first difference which strikes us is that of color. Whether the black of the negro resides from under the skin or the skin itself; whether it proceeds from the color of the blood, the difference is fixed in nature. And is this difference of no importance? Is it not the foundation of a greater or less share of beauty in the two races? Are not the fine mixtures of red and white, the expressions of every passion, preferable to that eternal *monotony* (sameness – usually boring, dull), that immoveable veil of black which covers all the emotions of the other race?

What is Jefferson's opinion in regards to race? Focus on the last few sentences.

DEBRIEF: To be completed after sharing as a group and writing on your poster. Be sure to write in multiple complete sentences.

1. Was Jefferson's main message in regards to race clear throughout all four excerpts? Why/why not? Cite specific examples from your group share-out.

2. What does this mean about his idea of race? Why is there no clear answer?

Round 2: Primary Source: Excerpt 2

Directions: Read the question at the bottom of this sheet. As you are reading, highlight/underline and words, phrases, or sentences that would help you answer that question.

Excerpts from: The Notes on the State of Virginia

By Thomas Jefferson, 1785. Chapter 14: "Laws."

Besides those of color, figure, and hair, there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race. They have less hair on the face and body. They secrete less by the kidneys, and more by the glands of the skin, which gives them a very strong and disagreeable odor. This greater degree of *transpiration* (sweat) renders them more tolerant of heat, and less so of cold, than the whites...They seem to require less sleep.

...A black, after hard labor through the day, will be induced by the slightest amusements to sit up til midnight, or later, though knowing he must be out with the first dawn of the morning. They are at least as brave, and more adventuresome. But this may perhaps proceed from a want of forethought, which prevents their seeing a danger till it be present. When present, they do not go through it with more coolness or steadiness than the whites....

What is Jefferson's opinion in regards to race?

DEBRIEF: To be completed after sharing as a group and writing on your poster. Be sure to write in multiple complete sentences.

1. Was Jefferson's main message in regards to race clear throughout all four excerpts? Why/why not? Cite specific examples from your group share-out.

2. What does this mean about his idea of race? Why is there no clear answer?

Round 2: Primary Source: Excerpt 3

Directions: Read the question at the bottom of this sheet. As you are reading, highlight/underline and words, phrases, or sentences that would help you answer that question.

Excerpts from: The Notes on the State of Virginia

By Thomas Jefferson, 1785. Chapter 14: "Laws."

...The improvement of the blacks in body and mind, in the first instance of their mixture with the whites, has been observed by every one, and proves that their *inferiority* (being of lower status) is not the effect merely of their condition of life...

...It must be said, that though for a century and a half we have had under our eyes the races of black and of red men, they have never yet been viewed by us as subjects of natural history. I advance it therefore as a suspicion only, that the blacks, whether originally a distinct race, or made distinct by time and circumstances, are inferior to the whites in the *endowments* (gifts) both of body and mind...

What is Jefferson's opinion in regards to race?

DEBRIEF: To be completed after sharing as a group and writing on your poster. Be sure to write in multiple complete sentences.

1. Was Jefferson's main message in regards to race clear throughout all four excerpts? Why/why not? Cite specific examples from your group share-out.

2. What does this mean about his idea of race? Why is there no clear answer?

Round 2: Primary Source: Excerpt 4

Directions: Read the question at the bottom of this sheet. As you are reading, highlight/underline and words, phrases, or sentences that would help you answer that question.

Excerpts from: The Notes on the State of Virginia

By Thomas Jefferson, 1785. Chapter 14: "Laws."

...This unfortunate difference of color, and perhaps of *faculty* (ability), is a powerful obstacle to the *emancipation* (freedom) of these people. Many of their advocates, while they wish to vindicate the liberty of human nature, are anxious also to preserve its dignity and beauty. Some of these, embarrassed by the question 'What further is to be done with them?' join themselves in opposition with those who are motivated by greed only. Among the Romans *emancipation* required but one effort. The slave, when made free, might mix with, without staining the blood of his master. But with us a second is necessary, unknown to history. When freed, he is to be removed beyond the reach of mixture.

What is Jefferson's opinion in regards to race?

DEBRIEF: To be completed after sharing as a group and writing on your poster. Be sure to write in multiple complete sentences.

1. Was Jefferson's main message in regards to race clear throughout all four excerpts? Why/why not? Cite specific examples from your group share-out.

2. What does this mean about his idea of race? Why is there no clear answer?