

The Corbin Expulsion of 1919

Teacher's Guide



Discussion Questions

Use the questions below to lead a class discussion after viewing the film.

1. What was Corbin's role in the regional economy?
2. Why did L&N Railroad bring Black workers to Corbin in 1919?
3. What incident on the night of October 29, sparked the expulsion?
4. Who leads the mob action in Corbin?
5. How did the chief of police respond to the threat to the Black workers?
6. How did the L&N foremen respond to the threat faced by their workers?
7. How did Alex Tye respond to the expulsion?
8. How had the racial composition of Corbin changed by 1920?
9. What was the purpose of the Commission on Inter-Racial Cooperation?
10. What legal action was taken against members of the mob?
11. Why did the citizens of Corbin believe that "Pistol" Pete Roger's sentence should have been reduced?

Connections to Today

1. In Corbin, law enforcement failed to protect the rights of Black citizens. Discuss policing and police outreach efforts in your local community.
2. Discuss and define the differences between a protest and mob action. Create a plan for a peaceful protest in your community.
3. Discuss the idea of reparations for victims of racially motivated violence. Does the city of Corbin owe the descendants of Alex Tye financial compensation?
4. Despite the end of legal segregation, many American communities remain divided along racial lines. Discuss the factors that encourage continued de facto segregation. How can communities become more inclusive?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. The Black workers who came to Corbin in 1919 were part of a larger movement of Blacks to the north known as The Great Migration. Research the causes and Effects of the Great Migration.
2. Compare the article from the October 31 edition of the Mount Vernon Signal with the description of events from the film. Discuss possible reasons for the discrepancies. The article is available from [Chronicling America](#).
3. Watch the film [Knoxville's Red Summer: The Riot of 1919](#). Compare the events in Corbin with the events in Knoxville.
4. Research the role of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in the interwar years.

Other

Lesson Plan: [Free but Not Free: Life After the Emancipation Proclamation | The African Americans](#) from PBS Learning Media

Books

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson ISBN: 978-0679763888

Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism by James W. Loewen
ISBN: 978-0743294485

"Racial Violence, Lynchings, and Modernization in the Mountain South" by W. Fitzhugh Brundage - Appalachians and Race: The Mountain South From Slavery to Segregation, pages 302-316 ISBN: 0-8131-2173-6