

Name: _____

How the US Government Segregated Chicago

Directions: Take notes on [How the U.S. Government Segregated Chicago | \[Inside Chicago, Part 1\]](#). Then answer the questions that follow.

Notes:

Questions:

1. Explain how the federal government segregated Chicago?

2. How did realtors and real-estate brokers segregate Chicago?

3. What impact did housing segregation have on Chicago's black community?

Redlining in Chicago

Directions: Read and annotate the text WITH GIST NOTES. Then answer the comprehension questions that follow.

Source: Encyclopedia of Chicago

“Redlining is the practice of [irrationally] denying or limiting financial services to specific neighborhoods, generally because its residents are people of color or are poor. While discriminatory practices existed in the banking and insurance industries well before the 1930s, the New Deal's Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) instituted a redlining policy by developing color-coded maps of American cities that used racial [standards] to categorize lending and insurance risks. [On the maps] new, affluent, racially homogeneous (or racially similar) housing areas received green lines while black and poor white neighborhoods were often [bounded] by red lines denoting their undesirability. Banks and insurers soon adopted the HOLC's maps and practices to guide lending and underwriting decisions. Further, the Federal Housing Administration, created in 1934, also used the HOLC's methods to assess locations for federally insured new housing construction.”

1. Define redlining in your own words.

“Like other forms of discrimination, redlining had [evil] and damaging effects. Without bank loans and insurance, redlined areas lacked the capital (or money) essential for investment and redevelopment. As a result, after World War II, suburban areas received preference for residential investment at the expense of poor and minority neighborhoods in cities like Chicago. The relative lack of investment in new housing, rehabilitation, and home improvement contributed significantly to the decline of older urban neighborhoods and compounded Chicago's decline in relation to its suburbs.”

2. What were the long-term effects of redlining?

“Redlining’s negative effects remained largely unrecognized by policymakers until the mid-1960s. Banking practices were the first to receive congressional scrutiny. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited housing discrimination and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 required the release of data on bank lending. Unsatisfied by the practical results of these laws, community activists in Chicago spearheaded further reform, leading the nation in identifying and addressing the redlining issue. In the early 1970s, the Citizens Action Program, a cross racial group of community leaders from the South Side, developed a strategy of “greenlining” by asking residents to deposit savings only in banks that pledged to reinvest funds in urban communities. Chicago organizers were also instrumental in lobbying Congress to pass the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA), which required banks to lend in areas from which they accepted deposits. The law had limited effect until the National Training and Information Center in Chicago, led by Gale Cincotta, put public pressure on Chicago banks to lend to distressed neighborhoods. Cincotta’s group successfully negotiated \$173 million in CRA agreements from three major downtown banks in 1984, settlements that served as models for other cities.”

3. Explain at least one law that helped make redlining illegal.

4. How did Chicago activists fight for fair housing practices? What laws were a result of their activism?

HOLC Redlining Map of Chicago

Directions: With your partner, explore Chicago's redlining map on [Mapping Inequality, Redlining in New Deal America](#). Make sure to click on a variety of neighborhoods. Note your findings below.

	Summary of Description and Characteristics	Description of Population
Green/Blue: Best/Still Desirable		
Yellow: Definitely Declining		
Red: Hazardous Note: Make sure to check neighborhoods on the South Side of Chicago		

Reflection: How can you see the effects of redlining in Chicago today?

Excerpt from “The Case for Reparations”, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

¹The lives of black Americans are better than they were half a century ago. The humiliation of WHITES ONLY signs are gone. Rates of black poverty have decreased. Black teen-pregnancy rates are at record lows—and the gap between black and white teen-pregnancy rates has shrunk significantly. But such progress rests on a shaky foundation, and fault lines are everywhere. The income gap between black and white households is roughly the same today as it was in 1970. Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at New York University, studied children born from 1955 through 1970 and found that 4 percent of whites and 62 percent of blacks across America had been raised in poor neighborhoods. A generation later, the same study showed, virtually nothing had changed. And whereas whites born into affluent neighborhoods tended to remain in affluent neighborhoods, blacks tended to fall out of them.

²This is not surprising. Black families, regardless of income, are significantly less wealthy than white families. The Pew Research Center estimates that white households are worth roughly 20 times as much as black households, and that whereas only 15 percent of whites have zero or negative wealth, more than a third of blacks do. Effectively, the black family in America is working without a safety net. When financial calamity strikes—a medical emergency, divorce, job loss—the fall is precipitous.

³And just as black families of all incomes remain handicapped by a lack of wealth, so too do they remain handicapped by their restricted choice of neighborhood. Black people with upper-middle-class incomes do not generally live in upper-middle-class neighborhoods. Sharkey’s research shows that black families making \$100,000 typically live in the kinds of neighborhoods inhabited by white families making \$30,000. “Blacks and whites inhabit such different neighborhoods,” Sharkey writes, “that it is not possible to compare the economic outcomes of black and white children.”

⁴One thread of thinking in the African American community holds that these depressing numbers partially stem from cultural [behaviors] that can be altered through individual grit and exceptionally good behavior. . .The thread is as old as black politics itself. It is also wrong. The kind of [severe] racism to which black people have persistently been subjected can never be defeated by making its

victims more respectable. The essence of American racism is disrespect. And in the wake of the grim numbers, we see the grim inheritance.

⁵And so we must imagine a new country. Reparations—by which I mean the full acceptance of [America’s history of racism] and its consequences—is the price we must pay to see ourselves squarely. . . What I’m talking about is more than [payment] for past injustices—more than a handout, a payoff, hush money, or a reluctant bribe. What I’m talking about is a national [reevaluation] that would lead to spiritual renewal. Reparations would mean the end of scarfing hot dogs on the Fourth of July while denying the facts of our heritage. Reparations would mean the end of yelling ‘patriotism’ while waving a Confederate flag. Reparations would mean a revolution of the American consciousness, a reconciling of our self-image as the great [democracy] with the facts of our history.”

1. Explain the wealth gap between black and white families. How has redlining contributed to this wealth gap?

2. “Reparations” is often interpreted as a potential repayment to descendants of enslaved African-Americans to compensate for years of free labor. However Coates has a different idea of “reparations”. What is his definition of reparations? How can we achieve his idea?
