

Before Rosa Parks: Ida B. Wells

Glossary

Ku Klux Klan — a white supremacist organization formed shortly after the Civil War. The Klan's main activity in the late 19th and early 20th century was to terrorize blacks who challenged white supremacy.

Jim Crow laws — a series of laws passed in the South after the Civil War to enforce segregation.

“Separate but equal” — because the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution demanded equal protection under the law for all citizens, communities and businesses committed to racial segregation used the logic that the races could be kept separate as long as they had similar accommodations.

Anti-lynching campaign — activism to stop the Klan and other vigilante groups from illegally taking custody of and committing violent acts upon people they suspected of some infraction of the law or resented because they defied white supremacy.

Woman suffrage — the movement, consolidated in the 1860s, to demand a constitutional amendment granting women the vote.

Non-conformist — a person who defies social norms and customs.