

Day 3: Oregon Exclusion Laws



It is important for students to understand that Amanda Gardner Johnson's story was uniquely her own and does not represent the experiences of all Black pioneers. Her journey to Oregon, the life she settled into once she arrived, and her freedom were all parts of her individual story. Before students are introduced to the stories of other Black pioneers they should spend some time learning about the Oregon Exclusion Laws. Understanding Oregon's Exclusion Laws will help students understand how opportunities for Black pioneers were affected and why these laws were successful in discouraging Black pioneers from settling in Oregon.

MATERIALS

The mini pamphlet provided gives students the chance to read and discuss three of the eight Exclusion Laws. Let your students know that there are five other laws that they didn't even get a chance to read! These laws were complicated and there were a lot of them! Although there is only one known person who was forced to leave Oregon because of these laws, they successfully persuaded many Black pioneers not to settle in Oregon.

In fact in 1869, there were only 128 Black settlers within a total population of 52,465!

These laws have had a lingering affect in Oregon and in 2013 (144 years later!) only 2 percent of the population in Oregon was Black.

TIPS

- ✓ Stop often and allow students to discuss what they are reading
- ✓ Print the materials double-sided (flip on short edge) in order to fold the materials into a small booklet

SOURCES

Oregon Encyclopedia: A project of the Oregon Historical Society
<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>