

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Directions: Explore the document and answers the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1920.
2. What was Tulsa like for African Americans living there?
3. Why does Booker T. Washington give Greenwood the nickname “Black Wall Street”?
4. Explain how the differing factors of white supremacy, segregation, the Great Migration, rapid urbanization, lynching, and media coverage gave rise to the underlying tensions in Tulsa.
5. Historians categorize “The Elevator Incident” as the ‘catalyst’ to the Massacre. Explain what occurred in the elevator, what role the local newspaper played, and what role the local law enforcement played as well.
6. How does this event increase in tension and what happened to the town of Greenwood to where it was destroyed.
7. What was the aftermath to the massacre? What happened to the African Americans living in Greenwood?
8. Were there any controversies that arose as a result? Explain.
9. Why has there been a resurgence of attention to this massacre recently?
10. Do you think the Tulsa, Oklahoma incident in 1921 was a “massacre” or a “race riot”? Justify your answer.
11. Was this massacre inevitable? Could this happen again?