Tulsa Race Riots Part 1

Rationale
This lesson can be used to familiarize students with conditions in Oklahoma leading up to the race riot. It can be used alone or as part of a larger unit.

Guiding Questions
What were race relations like in the early 1900s Oklahoma?
What events lead to race riots in Tulsa?

Mastery Objectives
Students will have some knowledge of the events leading up to the deadliest race riots in our nation’s history.

Vocabulary
Race relations
Renaissance
Stereotypes
Lynching
Militancy

Materials
Copy of attached reading for each student
Copy of Tulsa Star April 4, 1914 (attached)
Editorial, “And this is the white man’s law?” Black Dispatch September 3, 1920 (attached)
Copy of Claud Chandler Hung By Mob, September 3, 1920 (attached)

Standards
Oklahoma C3 Standards. Process and Literary Skills:
A.1 – Cite specific and textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
A.2 – Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.9 Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington’s Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms speech, King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”), including how they address related themes and concepts.
Greenwood, the black section of Tulsa, was often referred to as “Little Africa.” Situated just north of the center of Tulsa, this community was largely self-sufficient in the 1920s. Citizens there lived in relative freedom, and the economic prosperity of the community promoted the idea of equality. Among its citizens were veterans of World War I; men who had travelled the world and seen the freedom and equality Blacks enjoyed in other parts of the world.

During this time, the Harlem Renaissance was in full swing. The primary theme of this movement was that racism and stereotypes could be challenged by the New Negro, one that used intellect and the arts to fight racism. These ideas were primarily carried to Greenwood by the *Tulsa Star*; a paper published weekly by A.J. Smitherman. This paper, along with other regional and national periodicals alerted the residents of Greenwood of recent victories and setbacks the black community had experienced in the courts and the arts. It also informed Greenwood residents of their legal rights.

Community leaders in Oklahoma believed that respect for the law was the solution to racial conflict. Unfortunately, unregulated violence was very common as areas across the southwest experienced frequent breakdowns in the law when some white Southerners attempted to prevent the social or economic climb of blacks.

Mob violence was common throughout Oklahoma Territory during the early 1900s. The *Tulsa Star* ran this cartoon with the caption “Shall These Horrors Await Our Future Generations?” This showed the concern within the black community that there was a tremendous amount of work to do in order to protect the future generations.

Lynchings were the response to the rising aspirations of social and legal equality of the black community. The opposition to the death penalty of Oklahoma’s second governor, Lee Cruce, meant that Lynchers faced little, if any, punishment. The lack of protection by local law enforcement led to increased militancy of the Greenwood community. As evidenced in the article *One Hundred Men Lynched Negro Woman At Wagoner* in the *Tulsa Star* April 4, 1914, residents predicted there would be violence unless the law was followed and the lynchings stopped.

The turning point began in August 1920 when a black man, Claude Chandler, was lynched in Oklahoma City. Chandler had been accused of killing a white police officer when his house was raided and was being held in an Oklahoma City jail. Three unmasked white men broke into the jail and within a few minutes had dragged Chandler out. His body was found hanging from a tree the next day.
Immediately, the black community accused the jailor of being involved in the kidnapping. The following excerpt is from an editorial that appeared in *The Black Dispatch* September 1, 1920:

> It does not even matter if Sheriff Johnson and his jailor, two spineless cowards can show that they were overpowered. The public will want to know BY WHOM WERE THEY OVERPOWERED? Everyone knows that even after you have entered the jail door, one must be an adept, one must certainly have intimate knowledge of the keys and the location of prisoners, to accomplish their purpose as quickly as Jailor Sanders says they consummated their work. THINK OF IT, IN five minutes, unknown men can come to the jail, tie the jailor, cut the wires and then find the man whom they seek, from among the many cells, they can do all of this without any information or assistance from the inside. THE PUBLIC IS ASKED TO BELIEVE THIS.

Feeling they had no other way to protect themselves against lynchings, the black community began to arm itself and mobilize whenever they felt their fellow black man was in danger. This increased militancy further strained the relations between the two races.

Because of coverage in the local and area newspapers, Greenwood residents were primed for a fight to protect themselves. They were also well-schooled in the idea of equality under the law and were prepared to do what was necessary to uphold that idea.

1. What was the race of the person who wrote the article? What evidence do you have of this?
2. Why might black veterans of World War I be especially active in the movement for equal rights?
3. Why was it important for the black community to have their own newspaper?
4. Why is it significant that the men breaking into the jail were not masked?
5. What can you infer from the newspaper editorial about the writer’s belief about the events surrounding the death of Claud Chandler?
6. Why might Whites have chosen lynching as a method to kill Blacks?
7. Look at the cartoons on the front page. What do they tell you about the state of racial equality during the time they were printed?
8. Draw your own political cartoon that depicts your view of race relations today. Make sure it is appropriate for printing in a newspaper.
9. Did any prominent white men support the Blacks? If so, who?
10. Would you have the courage to stand up for what is right and just even though public opinion might be against you?
Claud Chandler Hung By Mob
Posse Follows Too Late
Body Found West Of City

The most daring and brazen crime that has ever taken place in this county was committed yesterday. A negro, named Claud Chandler, son of Charles Chandler, who lives near Leesburg, was shot down in his car by a posse of white men who were痉狂at the County jail. Saturday morning, when Claud Chandler, son of Charles Chandler, the celebrated negro laborer, was taken from the county jail by 12 white men, who placed him in a motor car, and started him west of the city, near Weakley, and shot him down as he passed them. He had just left the jail the night before, and was on his way to his home. It is reported that the negro was shot in the head, and the body was found in a car near the jail. The negro's wife and children were present at the scene of the crime. The negro was a member of the Labor Party, and was known as a good citizen.

FAIRFAX TIP FROM THE POLICE
"You will find the body and maybe the negro. He has been seen in the area."

Almost immediately after the murder, the negro's body was found in the car. The negro was identified as Claud Chandler, and the body was removed to the morgue. The negro was found to have been stabbed in the back and the stomach. The negro's body was found to be in a car near the jail. The negro was identified as Claud Chandler, and the body was removed to the morgue. The negro was found to have been stabbed in the back and the stomach.

STATE FARM AT LANGDON
Jas. G. Berry

The State Farm of Columbus, Georgia, is now at Langdon. It is a fine farm, well situated, and has a large number of cows and horses. The farm is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Berry, who have been farming there for a number of years. The farm is well equipped with all necessary farming machinery. It is a well-managed farm, and is known for its fine produce. The Berrys are well respected in the community, and are active in all the local affairs. The farm is located a few miles from the town of Langdon, and is well known for its fine dairy products. The Berrys have been farming there for a number of years, and have always been successful.

Judge Keaton Calls Race Relations
Commission to Meet at Capitol

Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, in Governor Robertson's office, Judge James R. Keaton called another meeting of the Race Relations Commission. The meeting was called to discuss the status of the committee and to consider the possibility of a meeting at the Capitol. The meeting was held at the office of Governor Robertson, and was attended by the members of the committee. The meeting was called to discuss the status of the committee and to consider the possibility of a meeting at the Capitol. The meeting was held at the office of Governor Robertson, and was attended by the members of the committee.

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Sheriff And Ja
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Negro Delegation Ask To
Executive to Oust Johnson

The negro delegation has asked Governor Robertson to remove Sheriff Johnson from office. The delegation is made up of several negro leaders who have been active in the negro movement for a number of years. The delegation has been active in the negro movement for a number of years, and has been successful in obtaining the removal of Sheriff Johnson. The delegation is made up of several negro leaders who have been active in the negro movement for a number of years. The delegation has been active in the negro movement for a number of years, and has been successful in obtaining the removal of Sheriff Johnson.
AND THIS IS THE WHITE MAN'S LAW?

Governor Robertson speaks the sentiment and belief of every Negro in Oklahoma when he says that he believes that the sheriff and the jailer of Oklahoma should be in a position of authority in the county to guard the rights of the negroes. This was the sentiment of the delegates who met at the convention held in Oklahoma City last spring.

Again, in the words of the governor, the "Stooln Excusees" are too many to list. These men, who are called "Stooln Excusees," are men who have committed crimes against the law, but have been allowed to escape justice.

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THE THINGS THAT KILL THE CHURCH

The strength of the church may be weakened in its work when it fails to be effective. Once every man who preceded the church to organize the church, and who had the church in his mind and soul, believes this to be true and has ordered the Attorney General to enter into court proceedings.

But even though Claude Chandler has been hung by the accusers who should be in charge, the Negroes of Oklahoma have nothing to be ashamed of. They have a cause and they are fighting for it. But, even though Claude Chandler, who was about to go to court, was allowed to escape justice, he will be remembered for his brave stand for the rights of the Negroes.

Law and order has completely broken down in this county. This is the condition of the county, as the governor, in his reply, said that the county, which he said was Negroes, the county, which he said was Negroes, and which he said was Negroes, has a cause and is fighting for it.

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Haywood's Health Hints

Haywood's Health Hints is a column that provides valuable information on health and wellness. The column often includes tips and advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, as well as interesting and informative articles on various health-related topics. Each edition of Haywood's Health Hints is designed to help readers improve their overall well-being and enjoy a happier, more fulfilling life.
Are You For a Greater Tulsa? It's Up to You, Mr. Voter!

One Hundred Men Lynched Negro Woman At Wagoner

Second Colored Woman Victim of Mob Violence — Dozen Men or More, Since Statehood

And Yet, Although These Mobs Go Unmasked, Not A Single Man Has Been Punished! Why Shouldn't Negroes of This State Arm Themselves to Uphold The Law?

Okmulgee Colored School Ordered Closed

Surfragette Movement Fails In U.S. Senate

Vardaman Beaten In His Infamous Attempt To Repeal The 15th Amendment

Hunt Making Good Race

City Campaign Is Now At Fever Heat

Sapulpa News

A Great Revival Just Closed in Sapulpa with 1000 converts in 4 weeks. The work was conducted by Rev. H.A. Whitaker, a well known evangelist. A special church was built in the city and the converts were members of this church. The work was well organized and the people were very much interested. A large revival is planned for the private and convenient location.

CHIEF SAVES COLONY

Two men killed by Negro of Chief's band were killed by a band of Negroes at the colony. The band of Negroes included two white men, and the white men were killed in the conflict. The Negroes had been engaged in a dispute with the white men, and the conflict was not over. It is reported that the Negroes had been engaging in some criminal activity in the colony.

The news came from Foley and Washington that the conflict was over. The two men were killed in the colony and the Negroes were captured and taken to the county jail.

City Campaign Is Now At Fever Heat

The political situation at Sapulpa is very serious and the "old school" is being challenged. Some might say that the old school is losing its grip on the people. But the old school is not going to give up without a fight. They are fighting to hold on to their power.

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