

1905

# Blacks

## What is the best way for us to get social equality?

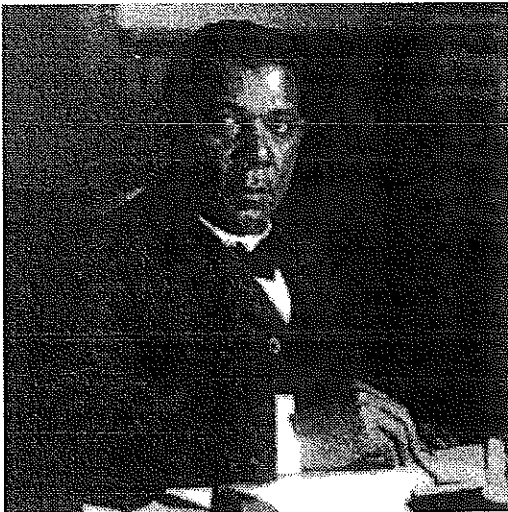
It is 1905. You are a black college student in Atlanta, Georgia.

In the United States, black people still don't have the same rights white people have. The Constitution says we do, but many states just ignore the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. In many places, we cannot own land or vote. We still have the worst jobs and the worst schools. There is a lot of violence against us, too. Last year, more than one hundred black people were killed by white groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

How can we stop this racism? How can we force the states to obey the Constitution? There are two famous black leaders with very different ideas about how to solve the problem: Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Washington is the founder of Tuskegee Institute, a technical college for black Americans. He says that we have to be patient. The best way to get our rights is to work hard as farmers, carpenters, and tradespeople. If we work hard at these jobs, white people will see that we are good and responsible people. Then they will stop discriminating against us. If we demand civil rights now, there will be more violence against us. We must be patient.

Du Bois is a college professor. He believes we should not *wait* for social equality. If we want whites to treat us as equals, we have to study and become doctors, lawyers, and teachers. Black Americans should demand the civil rights that the Constitution guarantees to all Americans. But we have to act now. If we are patient, we will never get these rights.



Booker T. Washington



W.E.B. Du Bois





**Blacks: What is the best way for us to get social equality?** *(continued)*

**Comprehension**

1. Who are you in this decision?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In paragraph 2, what does the word we refer to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In paragraph 4, what does the word they refer to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How are Washington and Du Bois the same?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In what ways are Washington and Du Bois different?

**Decision**

● *Who do you think is right—Washington or Du Bois? Choose one of the following options:*

- (a) Washington
- (b) Du Bois
- (c) Neither one is right. To get our rights, we should \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(d) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

● *Why did you decide that way? Plan how you will explain your decision to your classmates. Write out your reasoning completely.*

