

# Why Race Matters

**RACE** – made up social construct and not an actual biological fact

**ETHNICITY** – social construct that divides people into smaller social groups based on characteristics. African American, Chinese, Cherokee, Mexican, Swedish

**CULTURE** – shared values, traditions, norms, customs, arts, history, folklore, and institutions of a group of people who are unified by race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, and/or religion [amount others] (Casa Network, 2009)

**COLONIALISM** – system of national oppression in which a colonizing state maintains total economic, military, religious, political and cultural control over a colonized nation or people. The purpose is to extract maximum profits from the colonized nation for the colonizing state.

**STRUCTURAL RASICM** – the interplay of policies, practices and programs of differing institutions which leads to adverse outcomes and conditions for communities of color compared to white communities that occurs within the context of racialized historical and cultural conditions (City of Seattle, 2017)

**INTERSECTIONALITY** – concept used to describe ways in which shitty social constructs like – isms & -phobias are interconnected and not magically separate issues. Also, used to describe how social inequality is experienced as an ‘intersection’ of several forms of discrimination (The Deadly Moose, 2013)

**RACIAL EQUITY** – Is the condition that would be achieved if one’s racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. [Equity is the **outcome**, NOT just access to opportunity. Racial equity is education means the opportunity/achievement gap is gone]

When using the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities not just their manifestation.

## History of Racism and Immigration Timeline

**1790:** Naturalization Act of 1790; Citizenship restricted to free Whites.

**1831–1838:** Indian tribes forcibly resettled to West in Trail of Tears.

**1848:** U.S. defeats Mexico and “purchases” for \$15 million over one-third of the Mexican nation. Congress refuses to pass Article X, which stipulated the protection of the ancestral lands of Mexican people. Instead, Congress requires them to prove, in U.S. courts, speaking English, with U.S. lawyers, that they have legitimate titles to their lands.

**1859:** White abolitionist John Brown leads raid on Harper’s Ferry arsenal to get weapons for arming slaves to resist slavery. Most of his men were killed, and he was tried for treason and hanged.

**1862:** President Lincoln signs Homestead Act allotting 160 acres of western land — Native American land — to “anyone” who could pay \$1.25 and cultivate it for five years. European immigrants and land speculators bought 50 million acres. Congress gave another 100 million acres of Indian land free to the railroads. Since the Homestead Act applied only to U.S. citizens, Native Americans, Blacks and non-European immigrants were excluded.

**1864:** Ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery.

**1871:** Congress passes Indian Appropriations Act, dissolving the status of Indian tribes as nations.

**1882–1990:** 3,011 recorded lynchings of African Americans primarily, but not exclusively, in the South.

**1887:** Dawes Act dissolves tribal lands, granting land allotments to individual families leading to division of Indian territory and encroachment by Whites on Indian land.

**1901:** U.S. citizenship granted to the Five Civilized Tribes — Cherokee, Choctaw, Seminole, Creek, Chickasaw.

**1924:** Indian Citizenship Act — Native Americans granted U.S. citizenship.

**1935:** California law declares Mexican Americans are foreign-born Indians. Filipino Repatriation Act offered free transportation to Filipinos who would return to their homeland and restricted future immigration to the U.S.

**1965:** Civil rights workers marching for voting rights are stopped at the Pettus Bridge by police who use tear gas, clubs, and whips against them. Dubbed “Bloody

Sunday.”

**1966:** Malcolm X is assassinated.

**1968:** In *Loving v. Virginia* the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional, forcing 16 states that still banned interracial marriage to change their laws. Martin Luther King is murdered by racist James Earl Ray. African Americans riot in 168 towns and cities across the United States.

**1992:** Rodney King / LA Riots

**2001:** The U.S.A. PATRIOT Act

**2014-2015:** Michael Brown, Dontre Hamilton, Eric Garner, John Crawford III, Tanisha Anderson, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray

**2019:** Savanna’s Act to update law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians (in Senate).

## Implicit Bias Tool

AREA OF ANALYSIS Voices * Resources * Control	RACE and.... Socio-Economic Class, Immigration Status, Disability Status, Gender Identity, Age, Geography, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Primary Language(s), Etc.			
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
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6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
<b>ANALYSIS</b> <i>"I notice..."</i> <i>"I wonder..."</i>				
<b>NEXT STEP IDEAS</b> <i>Who is missing?</i> <i>How can you design around the</i> <i><u>racial</u> biases you noticed?</i>  <i>If we don't intentionally</i> <i>include, we will unintentionally</i> <i>exclude.</i>				