

Sand Creek Massacre

Ricardo Ramirez Cycle #42

Overview

- 150th anniversary on Nov. 29, 2014 (1864)
- One of most violent days in American Indian History
 - 700 soldiers raped, mutilated, and killed
 - 163 community members killed in 2 days and 1 night.
- On anniversary, detail reports were issued by U of Denver
 - John Evans (One of the founders) of U of Denver played role in massacre and his involvement was never recognized.



Issue

- When atrocious things happen in US, they get swept under the rug, and don't offer victims the respect that they deserve.
- This allow for a lack of empathy and a lack of learning from our mistakes.

What do you think about when
you hear George
Washington's name?



Issue Explained in depth

- “In response to the protest, administration on both campuses established review committees that exposed the deep moral culpability of Evan’s actions” (p.31)
- U of Denver was founded 1864
- Info was brought to light in 2014

How is Slavery taught in America?

SPLC's Teaching Tolerance project

- an appeal to states, school district leaders and textbook-makers to stop avoiding slavery's hard truths and lasting impact.
- Slavery is not taught effectively
 - “[Some]...key ‘problems’ with the way slavery is often presented to student[s]”:
 - Textbooks and teachers tend to accentuate the positive
 - Slavery is often described as a Southern problem.
 - Slavery depended on the ideology of white supremacy,
 - Too often, the report says, "the varied, lived experience of enslaved people is neglected."
 - Instead, lessons focus on politics and economics, which means focusing on the actions and experiences of white people.

TABLE 2 | HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SURVEY RESPONSES SUMMARY

Question	Correct	Incorrect	Not Sure
1. How was indentured servitude different from slavery in the American colonies?	58%	25%	17%
2. What was the Middle Passage?	46%	36%	18%
3. What were slave patrols?	67%	18%	15%
4. Enslaved Americans produced significant exports of all of the following except...?	61%	33%	6%
5. At the time of the American Revolution, slavery was...?	44%	42%	14%
6. Just before the Civil War, what was true of the North?	47%	42%	11%
7. The U.S. Constitution privileged slave owners in all the following ways EXCEPT...?	22%	48%	30%
8. Slave codes:?	45%	40%	15%
9. One important result of Nat Turner's 1831 slave insurrection was...?	18%	44%	38%
10. Frederick Douglass, Henry "Box" Brown, and Harriet Jacobs were all...?	42%	46%	12%
11. What was NOT a common form of slave resistance?	37%	55%	8%
12. Which was NOT a condition of slave life?	59%	34%	7%
13. Slave communities created music to...?	51%	42%	7%
14. All of the following were true of enslaved women EXCEPT...?	43%	45%	12%
15. A minority of Southern whites owned slaves, and ... ?	38%	38%	24%
16. Which formally ended slavery in the United States?	32%	59%	9%
17. Which was the reason the South seceded from the Union?	8%	79%	13%
18. Ideas of white supremacy that justified slavery included the belief that...?	40%	39%	21%

- Survey to gauge knowledge of slavery

TABLE 5 | TEXTBOOKS ANALYZED

Title	Lead Author	Publisher	Level	Score
<i>American History: Connecting with the Past, 15th Edition, AP Edition</i>	Brinkley	McGraw-Hill	HS	63%
<i>American Passages: A History of the United States, 7th Edition</i>	Ayers	Cengage	HS	57%
<i>America: Essential Learning Edition</i>	Shi	W.W. Norton	HS	70%
<i>The Americans: Student Edition 2009</i>	Danzer	McDougal Littell	HS	23%
<i>American Pageant</i>	Kennedy	Cengage	HS	60%
<i>Building Our Country</i>	Bennett	Pearson	ELEM	20%
<i>Discovering Our Past: A History of the US - Early Years</i>	Appleby	McGraw-Hill	MS	20%
<i>History Alive: The United States Through Industrialism</i>	Hart	TCI	MS	40%
<i>History of US (11 volume set)</i>	Hakim	Oxford	MS	60%
<i>Creating America: A History of the United States</i>	Garcia	Holt	MS	43%

State History Books

<i>Texas History</i>	Anderson	McGraw-Hill	MS	7%
<i>Alabama: Its History and Geography</i>	Bower	Clairmont Press	MS	7%

- Same study reviewed 12 History textbooks
 - Graded them on accuracy and elaboration.

Solution

- “First step in solving a problem is recognizing there is one”
 - Readjust how history is being taught
- Do research
- Teach a American history that is accurate and tells whole truth
- Omit the concept of race.
- Slave Museum