

# Lesson 2 - History of Reparations

## Lesson Summary

Students will examine, analyze and assess the forms of reparations enacted around the world.

## Objective

Students will examine, analyze, assess and present one historical example of reparations to classmates.

## Standards

8.3.12.B. Evaluate the impact of historical documents, artifacts, and places in U.S. history which are critical to world history.

8.3.U.A. Compare the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the U.S.

8.3.12.D. Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in the U.S. have influenced the growth and development of the world. • Ethnicity and race • Working conditions • Immigration • Military conflict • Economic stability

## Vocabulary

**Reparations:** 1- a repairing or keeping in repair. 2- the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury or something done or given as amends or satisfaction 3- the payment of damages, specifically: compensation in money or materials payable by a defeated nation for damages to or expenditures sustained by another nation as a result of hostilities with the defeated nation —usually used in plural

**Justice:** the maintenance or administration of what is just especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments

**Enslavement:** to force into or as if into slavery

**Segregation:** the separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means

**Reconstruction:** the period from 1865 to 1877 in which the southern states that had seceded during the American Civil War rejoined the United States

**Jim Crow:** racial segregation and discrimination enforced by laws, customs, and practices in especially the southern states of the U.S. from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 until the mid-20th century

**World War II:** the war that was fought mainly in Europe and Asia from 1939 to 1945

**Holocaust:** the mass slaughter of European civilians and especially Jews by the Nazis during World War II

Definitions sourced from Merriam Webster

## Episode Information

The Cost of Inheritance: Video Extras <https://www.wqed.org/the-cost-of-inheritance/>

- a. Working to Pass HR 40: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

## Materials

1. NPR: [Germany will pay more than \\$1.4 billion next year to survivors of Nazi atrocities](#)

This article will be used for the Germany group's research. This article explores the modern day realities of how Germany is still grappling with its history and how reparations are being handled globally in modern day.

2. NPR: [How reparation efforts in Barbados found an international spotlight](#)

This article will be used for the Caribbean group's research. This article discusses the usually overlooked reparations efforts in Barbados.

3. An Historical Timeline of Reparations Payments Made From 1783 through 2023 by the United States Government, States, Cities, Religious Institutions, Universities, Corporations, and Communities ([link](#))

This will be used for both the Japanese-American reparations group and the Germany group. This is a historical timeline of reparations across the United States and abroad with links to further explore each moment.

4. Bethel AME Pittsburgh [https://youtu.be/msl5c1ScAWg?si=xMiLWdAJ\\_yuLx1XV](https://youtu.be/msl5c1ScAWg?si=xMiLWdAJ_yuLx1XV)

This will be used for the Pittsburgh group. This article discusses the history and destruction of Bethel AME in Pittsburgh.

5. NPR: Memory Wars: How Society Confronts Sin [www.npr.org/podcasts/1101476293/memory-wars-a-podcast-exploring-how-society-confronts-sin](http://www.npr.org/podcasts/1101476293/memory-wars-a-podcast-exploring-how-society-confronts-sin)

This would be appropriate pre-work (homework assigned prior to the lesson) or recommended listening for those who are interested in exploring the topic further following the lesson. It explores how across the world and in the United States people deal with the dark histories they experience the aftermath of including Jim Crow laws and WWII.

6. [Caribbean nations demand reparations from King Charles for royal connection to slave trade](#)

This article discusses the reparations effort being made in the Caribbean right now which will be used for the Caribbean group.

7. [The JUST Act Report: Germany](#)

This article reviews one of the pieces of legislation Germany passed to address WWII and will be used by the Germany group.

## Lesson Activity

### Teacher Prep

- Preview The Cost of Inheritance, video excerpts. View and read listed sources.
- Decide on how to distribute provided information on examples (putting links on class website, on slides, printing out physical copies, etc.)

- Review information provided to students

### Lesson Tips

- Option: you may give student the sources you want them to use for the teach out, or ask them to research on their own

### Background Information

Teachers will review what a scholarly source is and all cited sources utilized in student research and presentation will be scholarly.

### Introduction

1. Share that today you will learn about historical examples of reparations and the many forms reparations can take
2. Review the definition of “**Reparations**”
  - a. Ask for student input on what they know about this vocabulary word

### Instructions

1. Set or review norms and expectations for the class while talking about this
2. Introduce teach out activity
  - a. The class will be divided into groups to research one of four topics. You will each research your topic and present on them.
  - b. Expectations: Create slideshow, utilize at least four sources, at least two must be scholarly, presentation should be between 5-10 minutes
3. Review how to find scholarly sources online or in the school’s database
4. Split into groups and give each one of each topic:
  - a. Pittsburgh: Bethel AME Pittsburgh (Source 4)
  - b. Post WWII Germany: NPR: Germany will pay more than \$1.4 billion next year to survivors of Nazi atrocities, The JUST Act Report (Sources 1 and 7)
  - c. Japanese Americans post internment: An Historical Timeline of Reparations Payments Made From 1783 through 2023 by the United States Government, States, Cities, Religious Institutions, Universities, Corporations, and Communities (Source 3)
  - d. Caribbean (Barbados): NPR: How reparation efforts in Barbados found an international spotlight, Caribbean nations demand reparations from King Charles for royal connection to slave trade (Sources 2 and 6)

*Option: Use Jamboard or similar technology for brainstorming and/or for groups to provide comments and feedback on other presenters*

5. Students will then present their information to the whole group.
6. Snowball Discussion
  - a. Question: What are forms that reparations can take?
  - b. Begin by silently reflecting on the question, maybe taking notes
  - c. Then snowball into pairs and discuss
  - d. Snowball by combining two pairs into groups of four and discuss what was talked about in pairs
  - e. Continue until discussion has snowballed into whole group

- f. As a whole group, have one designated note taker or ask for many volunteers to write on a poster the many forms reparations can take and why each of them are valuable
  - i. Purpose to show that reparations can be more than just financial compensation, while this is also important of course

### **Guiding Student Inquiry**

#### **Before Activity**

1. What are reparations?
2. Include class offerings on norms

#### **During Activity**

1. Students build presentations for each other

#### **After Activity**

1. Snowball allows each student voice to be heard

### **Extension Activity Ideas**

NPR podcast: Memory Wars, Exploring How Society Confronts Sin

[www.npr.org/podcasts/1101476293/memory-wars-a-podcast-exploring-how-society-confronts-sin](http://www.npr.org/podcasts/1101476293/memory-wars-a-podcast-exploring-how-society-confronts-sin)

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### **Suggested Reading**

<https://slaveryandjusticereport.brown.edu/sections/confronting-slaverys-legacy-the-reparations-question/>

From Brown University's Slavery and Justice Report: Confronting Slavery's Legacy: The Reparations Question

This section of the report focuses on the facts and critical perspectives on reparations.

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