



Birmingham History on the Road

Teacher Resources

Washington and Du Bois: Two Opinions, One Goal

In this lesson from the Stanford History Education Group, students read a speech of Washington's and a selection from Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* to consider who was a stronger advocate for African Americans.

<https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons/booker-t-washington-v-w-e-b-du-bois>

In this lesson from the Alabama Learning Exchange students will use primary sources to compare the responses of W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington to Jim Crow laws.

https://alex.state.al.us/lesson_view.php?id=34026

History of Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee University

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/discover-tu/tu-presidents/booker-t-washington>

Collection of resources on Booker T. Washington from the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/btwashington/>

Background information on W.E.B. Du Bois from the NAACP

<http://www.naACP.org/oldest-and-boldest/naACP-history-w-e-b-dubois/>

Collection of resources on W.E.B. Du Bois from the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/dubois/>

Information on W.E.B. Du Bois from the Harvard Hutchins Center with additional resources

<http://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/dubois/about-w-e-b-du-bois>

Post Performance Q&A | BTW and W.E.B. Du Bois

What were some big differences between Washington and Du Bois's strategies for civil rights?

- Washington: More passive, patient. Wanted to earn rights. Worried that if African Americans moved too fast, violence would ensue.
 - DuBois: Less patient, wanted to demand rights that he felt African Americans were due.

Why did more white people agree with Washington's approach?

- Washington was not considered a radical. He was content to keep African Americans in a lower rung economically and socially while learning trades, and slowly gaining respect. His ideas were not much of a threat to the power structure or status quo.

Why were some black people unhappy with Washington's approach?

- Many say Washington as too slow, too happy to stay in the white man's shadow. Many, like Du Bois, wanted to demand the rights they felt they deserved.

If more people had listened to Du Bois, what would be different about society today?

- Answers will vary.
 - Do you think that segregation would have ended sooner? Why or why not?

How do you think the upbringing of the men could have affected their viewpoints on civil rights?

- Washington: Was born in the South, into slavery, saw violence that sometimes resulted if black people pushed for freedoms/rights.
- Du Bois: born free, in the North, lived in a fairly integrated, tolerant community. Attended an integrated school and grew up playing with white children. Did not have as much experience with the violence that was sometimes the result of racism.

FIRE THE IMAGINATION. FORGE THE FUTURE.



@VisitVulcan

1701 Valley View Drive | Birmingham, AL 35209

205.933.1409 x.114 | cgamble@visitvulcan.com