

AFRICAN AMERICANS – WORD LIST

- **abolish** = ban, forbid
- **abolitionist** = someone who wants to end a system or a law
- **advance** = progress
- **ancestor** = a member of your family who lived a long time ago
- **army** = the men and women who fight for a country
- **arrest** = to take someone to a police station because they have done something wrong
- **assassinate** = to kill a political figure
- **attend** = go to
- **attract** = to pull towards you
- **auction** = a public meeting where things are sold to the person who offers the most money
- **average** = normally, usually
- **ban** = forbid
- **beat up** = hit
- **boycott** = here: if you do not travel by bus any more
- **carpenter** = someone who makes and repairs objects made of wood
- **century** = a hundred years
- **ceremony** = an official event
- **citizen** = someone who lives in a country and has rights there
- **civil rights** = the rights that every person should have, like the right to vote or to be treated fairly
- **Civil Rights Act** = an American law that gave all people the right to be treated equally
- **Civil War** = war between two groups of the same country
- **climax** = height; the best moment
- **coin** = to invent a new word or phrase
- **coloured** = here: Black person
- **compare** = to measure with ...
- **confidence** = to feel good about yourself
- **constitution** = a set of laws that a country has
- **cotton** = a plant with soft white balls of hair on it; used to make cloth
- **crops** = a plant like wheat or corn that farmers grow and use as food
- **cultivate** = to prepare and use land so that you can grow crops
- **decade** = a period of ten years
- **decide** = here: to say officially
- **depend on** = if you need something very badly
- **develop** = grow
- **disappointed** = sad
- **discriminate against** = to treat a person or a group of people in an unfair way
- **dominate** = to control something or be number one in a field
- **economy** = the financial system in a country
- **equal** = the same
- **express** = show
- **fist** = when you close your hand very tightly
- **forbid** = not to allow
- **force** = physical power
- **forefathers** = the people, especially men, who were part of your family a long time ago
- **freedom** = liberty
- **ghetto** = a part of a city in which poor people of a certain group or race live
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **Great Depression** = the time after the Wall Street crash of 1929; the 1930s
- **harvest** = bring in
- **heavyweight** = a boxer who belongs to the highest weight class
- **honor** = something that makes you feel very good
- **improve** = to make better
- **income** = the money you get when you have a job
- **increase** = to go up
- **join** = to become a member of
- **judge** = the person who is in control of a court and decides how criminals should be punished
- **labourer** = worker
- **law** = rule passed by the government
- **living conditions** = the situation in which people live
- **mason** = someone who cuts stones into pieces to make buildings

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- **master** = a man or woman who controls other people or servants
- **mayor** = the person who is the leader of a town or city
- **militant** = aggressive, revolutionary
- **momentum** = speed
- **movement** = a group of people who have the same beliefs and opinions
- **New Deal Programme** = the laws that Franklin D. Roosevelt made to help the American economy
- **non-violent** = without violence, peaceful
- **officer** = someone who is in a high position in the army
- **officially** = in public
- **opportunity** = chance
- **plant** = to put seeds into the ground so that crops can grow
- **poverty** = if you are poor and don't have enough money
- **preach** = to talk about religious things in a public place
- **progress** = here: to move a step forward
- **protect** = defend, guard
- **public** = place with a lot of people
- **raise** = bring up, educate
- **receive** = get
- **Reconstruction** = the time after the Civil War when the southern states rejoined the USA
- **refuse** = to say no
- **right** = something that you are allowed to do
- **riot** = a situation in which people fight against others and behave in a violent way
- **secret** = something that only a few people know
- **Secretary of State** = person in the government who deals with other countries
- **segregation** = when people of different races and religions are kept apart and not allowed to live and work in the same places
- **separation** = when something is divided
- **series** = a number of
- **serve** = to do useful work for a country
- **share** = part
- **sharecropper** = a poor farmer who works on someone else's land and gives the owner most of it in return
- **skill** = something that you can do well because you have learned it
- **slave** = someone who is owned by another person and works for them without getting money
- **slavery** = the system of having people work for you without getting any money for it
- **standard of living** = how well people in a certain area live and how much money they have
- **stock market** = place where you buy and sell parts of a company
- **succeed** = to do what you tried or wanted to do
- **support** = help
- **Supreme Court** = the highest court in a country
- **sympathy** = to feel sorry for; to understand someone
- **take part** = here: to march with
- **trade** = to buy and sell things
- **treatment** = to deal with
- **unemployment** = if you are out of work
- **unit** = a part of something
- **view** = opinion
- **violence** = aggression, fighting
- **violent** = brutal, aggressive
- **vote** = to elect a person for a position
- **white-hooded** = to have a white cover over your head
- **withdraw** = leave