

Racist Remarks





Pre-Reading
Reflection

Step 1 Please
complete Part 1: 'Pre-
Education'
Reflection' linked
[HERE](#) before moving
on to the next slides.

The History behind it . . .

Racial categories are created by people, or are socially constructed. They didn't exist until the 1800s, and once constructed, they were used to justify ideas that some people were genetically superior while some were inferior. "Scientific racism," or the early division of people from around the world into distinct racial categories, developed prior to the discovery of human DNA and was based primarily on the examination of human skulls. The findings were then used to divide people with different observable physical characteristics (such as skin color, eye shape and hair texture).



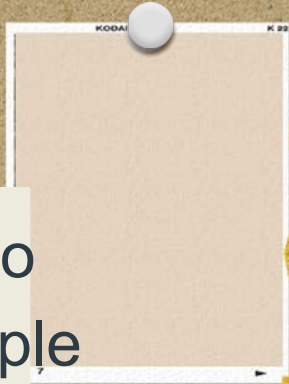
History cont.

Some physical differences we observe between humans (such as skin color) ~~are~~ **simply a result of geography and environment** and the human ability to adapt to the sun's harmful rays. Early humans who lived closer to the equator produced more melanin (the skin's brown pigment found in every human in varying quantities) as a natural sunscreen.



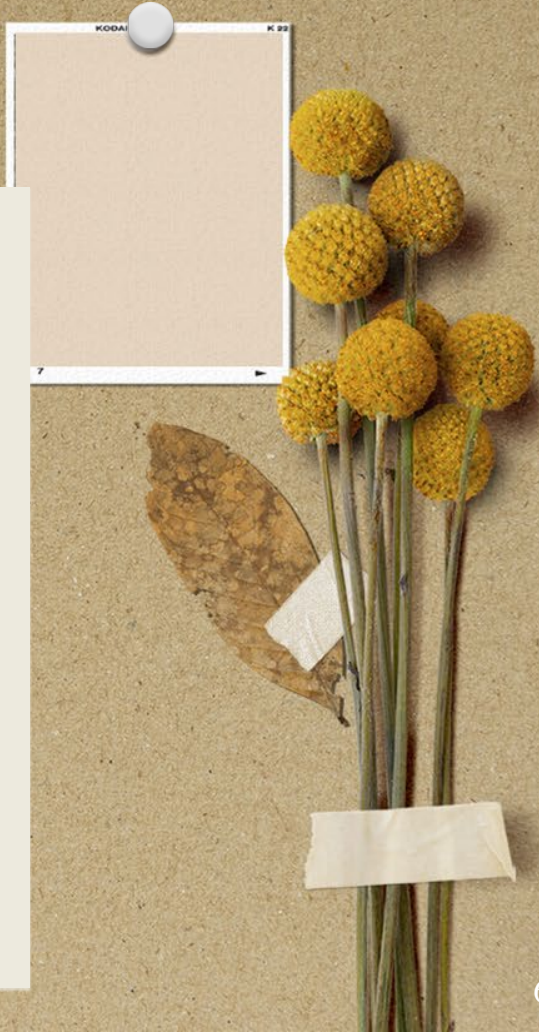
What Science Says:

Scientists have since found that there are no significant genetic differences between people from different racial categories *In fact, there is just as much genetic diversity within racial groups as there is between them.*



“Scientific Racism”

While it has long been proven that there is no scientific basis for distinguishing people based on race, there are very real social impacts of this practice on people of different races. For example, early “scientific racism” was used to justify the enslavement of Black people in the U.S. Those who supported slavery used “scientific racism” to claim that Black people were the inferior racial group, while white people were superior to all other racial groups. **Maintaining the institution of slavery involved ensuring that stereotypes about Black people were widely shared .**



Ties to Slavery

Though the harmful comparison of Black people to monkeys predates slavery, during this time it became a tool to convince society that slavery, and the horrific acts it involved, was warranted because the people in bondage weren't actually people . After slavery was abolished, the harmful stereotypes associated with Black people did not disappear; those stereotypes have crept into present-day themes in both explicit (clear, conscious) and implicit (unconscious) ways. One theme that emerged was the idea that Black people were like animals, less intellectually developed and therefore content in captivity.



Similar degradation...

Throughout history, other groups have been targeted with similar degradation. While we often think of racial categories as being clear and permanent, it's important to note that even the social groups that have been perceived as "white" have actually changed over time. For example, in the 1800s, large groups of Irish people emigrated to the U.S. after fleeing famine in Ireland.

People already living in the U.S. (who had originated in other parts of Europe) met the Irish with hostility and violence.

The Irish were viewed as having a culture and religion that were undesirable. They too were compared to monkeys to justify mistreatment and exclusion. This comparison also worked to further reinforce the racist idea that being Black was the most socially undesirable racial identity. As Irish people gained political power and new groups of immigrants entered the U.S. from China as well as southern and eastern Europe, the categorization of the Irish shifted. Irish people began to be seen more generally as white. The shifting of racial classification for various European groups ensured that Black people and other people of color would remain in the minority with barriers to resources, opportunities and rights.

Targeted
degradation of
Blacks and other
immigrant
populations . . .



Post-Reading
Reflection

Step 3 Please
complete Part 3:

'Follow Up
Questions' return to
same link: [HERE](#) to
complete today's
work.

PANTONE 108 C