

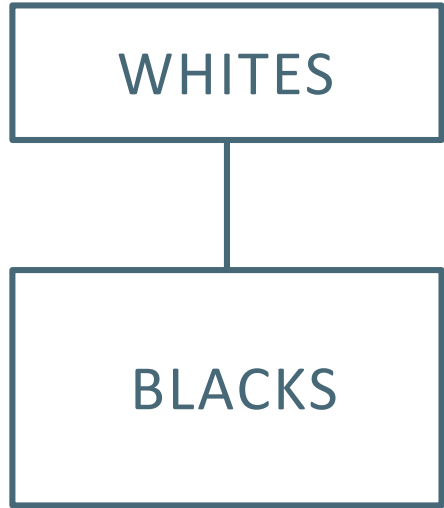


A TASTE OF THE DELTA

Through the lens of an African American teacher.

KESIENA WILLIS, Indianapolis, IN

PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS:



The Delta is a place laced with “southern charm” and stark differences in history as it relates to culture. As we wove our way through the delta, I quickly learned that it was more than just about the people, but about what they brought with them, such as their way of life, customs, food, and music.



tamales



koolickles

We had the privilege of speaking to different communities that reside in the Delta. There were people of different descents and skin colors, such as Blacks, Whites, Chinese, Jewish, and Italians. We enjoyed snacks that were enjoyed by many cultures.

Pork skins
And
Fortune cookies



COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE

It was very common to find communities of people with the same type of people to band together. The communities of people would work together to help one another in a family business or farm together to bring collected wages together as a family. However, this wasn't the case for blacks. It was hard for blacks to remain connected as families as they were often looked at as property and were broken apart and dispersed all over America.



Jewish



Italians



Chinese



Blacks

BURIAL SITES



The white people cemeteries were manicured, neatly placed, and well cared for.



When traveling through various towns it was even visible in communities where people were once lived and died. Plots of land are still segregated. You will notice vast differences in how properties are cared for, where they are placed, and by those that tend to them.

The Chinese people's cemeteries were maintained, and strategically placed due to some overcrowding on a smaller parcel of land gated to keep undesirables out. The land is cared for by one of their own.

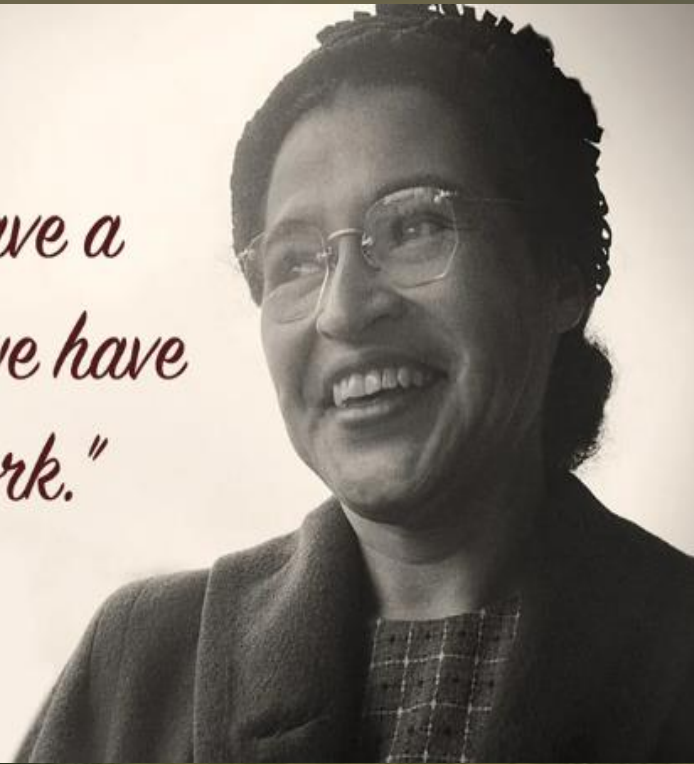


Black families' grave sites were placed sporadically as if families had to find a place of their own on the land and leave their loved ones. The land was not as nice as the others and in some places, there was no headstone.

As educators, we are called to confront topics pertaining to our country's vast historical events and changes. Although cultural agitations arise when we notice the disparities among cultural groups, but we must keep pushing for equality. Equality takes everyone to disrupt what was established long ago. As we understand the undercurrent of a society we must stand together and organize to uplift one another.

*"We still, today, have a
long way to go and we have
to continue our work."*

- Rosa Parks





THE PROGRESSION OF THE BLACK
LIFE :

SLAVERY TO ALLEGED FREEDOM,
ASSIMILATION, RESILIENCE, CODE-
SWITCHING, JUST TRYING TO
SURVIVE.



When we look back over our robust week of studies of the “Delta”, one fact still remains. Black and Brown people are still striving to be elevated to their rightful place. Blacks only want to be viewed as an equal and not someone to fear.

I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH THE
WORDS OF POET THERESA THE
SONGBIRD.

