READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT
Black Codes & Jim Crow

Read the text and answer the questions.

After the Civil War, Southern governments passed laws to limit the rights and activities of freed slaves. Known as "Black Codes," these laws were an attempt to keep African Americans under the control of white southerners. Black Codes gave African Americans some rights like the right to get married or own property, but mostly, black codes limited their rights. For example, blacks were not allowed to testify against whites in court, vote, or serve on juries. They could only hold certain types of jobs, and they were even told how late they could stay out at night.

Northern states were outraged at how freed blacks were treated. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the passage of the 14th Amendment put an end to Black Codes. However, Southern governments found other ways to discriminate against African Americans. They passed "Jim Crow" laws that lasted from the late 19th century until the mid-1960s.

Jim Crow laws set up segregation in all walks of life. They separated blacks from whites in public places, including schools, restaurants, movie theaters, hotels, and even doctors' waiting rooms. These separate facilities were supposed to be "separate but equal"— but they were far from equal. African American facilities were inferior and not well supplied. Jim Crow laws became a central issue of the Civil Rights Movement.

1. A. Define discriminate as it is used in the text.
   B. Define segregation and provide an example.
   C. Define inferior. Provide a synonym and an antonym.

2. Explain the relationship between Black Codes and Jim Crow laws. In what ways were they similar? In what ways were they different? Use a Venn Diagram to organize your answer.

3. According to the text, were Jim Crow laws fair to African Americans? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

4. Use online resources to learn where the term "Jim Crow" originated. What does the term reveal about those who first came up with it?