**Jim Crow Laws**

After reading all of the laws, pick **four** Jim Crow laws that you find interesting or especially mean or ridiculous. Using these laws, complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Jim Crow Law** | **What would it be like to live under this law?** | **Why would this law have been created?** | **What is your opinion of the law?** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Jim Crow Laws

The Jim Crow system was undergirded by the following beliefs or rationalizations: whites were superior to blacks in all important ways, including but not limited to intelligence, morality, and civilized behavior; sexual relations between blacks and whites would produce a mongrel race which would destroy America; treating blacks as equals would encourage interracial sexual unions; any activity which suggested social equality encouraged interracial sexual relations; if necessary, violence must be used to keep blacks at the bottom of the racial hierarchy. The following Jim Crow etiquette norms show how inclusive and pervasive these norms were:

* A black male could not offer his hand (to shake hands) with a white male because it implied being socially equal. Obviously, a black male could not offer his hand or any other part of his body to a white woman, because he risked being accused of rape.
* Blacks and whites were not supposed to eat together. If they did eat together, whites were to be served first, and some sort of partition was to be placed between them.
* Under no circumstance was a black male to offer to light the cigarette of a white female -- that gesture implied intimacy.
* Blacks were not allowed to show public affection toward one another in public, especially kissing, because it offended whites.
* Jim Crow etiquette prescribed that blacks were introduced to whites, never whites to blacks. For example: "Mr. Peters (the white person), this is Charlie (the black person), that I spoke to you about." Whites did not use courtesy titles of respect when referring to blacks, for example, Mr., Mrs., Miss., Sir, or Ma'am. Instead, blacks were called by their first names. Blacks had to use courtesy titles when referring to whites, and were not allowed to call them by their first names.
* If a black person rode in a car driven by a white person, the black person sat in the back seat, or the back of a truck.
* White motorists had the right-of-way at all intersections.