

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sula Background Knowledge Text Set Handout

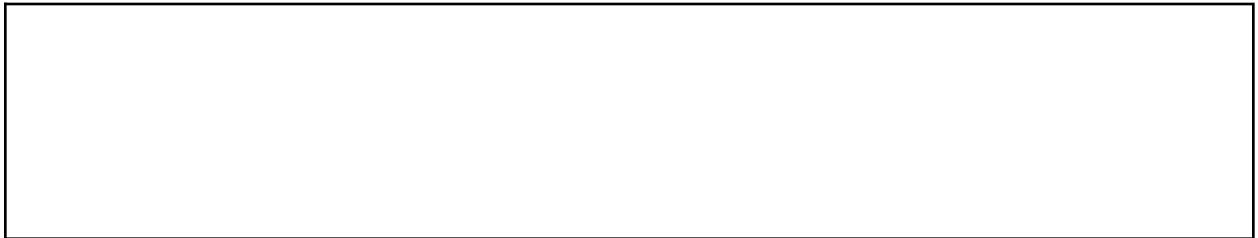
Station 1: The Great Migration and the Jim Crow Era

Directions: Explore the visuals and read the accompanying texts in [Visualizing the Great Migration](#) (MoMA) and answer the following questions.

Why did Black Americans leave the South during WWI?



Pick the graphic that you found most interesting. What idea does it develop?



Directions: Read the opinion piece ["The Forgotten Northern Origins of Jim Crow"](#) by Steve Luxenberg (TIME) and answer the following questions.

What does Luxenberg argue about separation in the South? In the North?



What acts of resistance occurred in the North during the Jim Crow era?

What common perspective about the South and the North does Luxenberg challenge in this piece?

Station 2: Urban Renewal

Directions: Watch the video ["Urban renewal destroyed a Black neighborhood. Now, former residents are keeping its memory alive"](#) (PBS NewsHour) and answer the following questions.

What is urban renewal? What effect did it have on historical Black neighborhoods like Mill Creek Valley in St. Louis?

What memories and feelings did the former residents of Mill Creek have as they reflected on their childhood growing up there?

Directions: In the map [Renewing Inequality: Urban Renewal, Family Displacements, and Race 1950-1966](#) (University of Richmond), read the description of *Renewing Inequality* and then click "next." Review how to use this map and then click "enter." Read the description under the heading "Nationwide 1960–66" and review the map and bar graph. Then, answer the following questions.

Sula takes place in a fictional town in Ohio. Click the city "Cincinnati." How did urban renewal affect families in Cincinnati? Which racial group was most impacted?

Station 3: African American Service During WWI

Directions: Examine the images [Are they equal in the eyes of the law?](#) and [Please let your light shine on me](#) (Library of Congress), and answer the following questions.

What message do these images convey about African American soldiers who returned home after fighting abroad? How do you know?

Directions: Watch the video "[African Americans and World War I | American Experience](#)" (PBS LearningMedia) and answer the following questions

What promises did Black soldiers believe they would be granted by their country if they were to fight in World War I?

What was the reality for Black soldiers?

Why did a group of Black soldiers take up arms against local police? What happened to 13 of them?

Station 4: Toni Morrison's Legacy

Directions: Watch the video "[Remembering Toni Morrison, An Iconic American Author | NYT News](#)" (The New York Times) and answer the following questions.

What is Toni Morrison known for?

What were some of her accomplishments?

Why did Morrison write?

Directions: Read the [excerpt from "The Radical Vision of Toni Morrison"](#) by Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah and answer the following questions.

How does Morrison treat Blackness and Black life in her novels?

According to Ghansah, what does Morrison do that is different from most Black literature?

What does it mean to write without "the white gaze"?