

Name: _____

Period: _____



13th

A documentary about the effects of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution

1. The United States accounts for _____% of the world population but _____% of its prisoners, according to President Obama.

2. The 13th amendment to the Constitution makes it unconstitutional for



a. What is the exception or loophole within the amendment?

3. What impact did the most famous silent film in American history, _____ have on the US? What image did it justify? What did the film predict?

a. What did President Wilson's _____ call the film?

4. What do the narrators claim as the reason for African American migration to northern cities?

5. How did civil rights protesters turn the idea of being arrested for a cause "on it's head"?

6. As the civil rights movement gained speed, _____ was also increasing due to an increasing population.

7. What does the documentary claim was the motive of the Nixon administration's "war on drugs"?

8. Which president most well-known for using the term "war on drugs" and how did he intend to fight this war?

9. What was the difference in how and what type of people were punished for using cocaine vs. crack during the Nixon & Reagan administrations?

10. What was the name for the generation of young African Americans who were characterized as criminals?

11. What happened to the accused in the Central Park jogger case?

12. What are the effects of the characterizations of African Americans by politicians and the media, according to one of the narrators?

13. How much did you know about the war on drugs and war on crime before watching the film? Were you surprised to learn about the racial underpinnings of these legislative policies, and the active role of the state in criminalizing and targeting communities of color? What was your reaction after hearing the following quote from John Ehrlichman, one of Richard Nixon's aides?:

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

14. 13th had many powerful images. What images stood out to you the most? Why?

15. How do you think media and popular culture representations of Black Americans, particularly of Black men, have contributed to a dangerous climate of white fear and anxiety? (Think back to the way George Zimmerman was heard describing Trayvon Martin, or the media frenzy around the Central Park Five that resulted in their wrongful imprisonment.) How can we challenge these instances of racism and dehumanization?

16. Many politicians, including the Clintons, Newt Gingrich, and Charles Rangel in this film, have apologized for their role in promoting devastating “tough on crime” legislation. Considering the billions of dollars made off the imprisonment of people, the ongoing practice of prison labor, and the cases of unjust imprisonment (as in the tragic case of Kalief Browder), is an apology enough? Is our country compelled to repay these communities and families in a more material, restorative way? Why or why not?

17. The following is a list of quotes from the film. Choose 5 quotes and explain why you felt these were the most profound or why they stand out to you. Also include what the meaning is behind these words. Answer in the margins. 3 or more sentences each

“US is home to 5% of the world’s population and 25% of the worlds prisoners”

“1 out 4 human beings in the world are locked up here in the home of the free”

*“**Birth of a Nation** confirmed the story many whites wanted to tell”*

“The establishment needed black bodies working”

“Jim Crow gave blacks a permanent second class status”

“Justice delayed is justice denied”

“Mass incarceration”

“Law and Order”

“War on drugs was a war on communities of color”

“Turn the news on at night, you see black men paraded across the street in hand cuffs”

“Black people are terrified of themselves”

“Super Predator”

“Violent crime and the fear it provokes, are crippling our society”

“Stripped out a whole generation of leaders”

“If everyone would insist on a trial the whole system would shut down”

“No one in the hood goes to trial”

“An environment that is designed to break you in 30 days”

“If I would’ve plead guilty, no one would’ve listened to my story, I’d just be another criminal”

“Prison industrial complex, it is a beast, it destroys black and Latinos communities, for breakfast lunch and dinner”