

# PEOPLE'S HISTORY TOOL

**NOTE:** Remember to establish collective agreements (ways we will show up for one another) prior to starting this activity.

Examples: Listen with empathy, consider power and privilege, speak with intention, etc.

## What is the People's History Activity?

This activity can be used by participants to create and explore a timeline of historic laws and policies that directly changed the racial demographics of cities and neighborhoods. The activity can also be applied to explore other policies that have caused racial disparities (For example health, education, employment).

## Why might we use the People's History Activity?

The activity can invite conversation about how public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work to reinforce and perpetuate racial inequality. It can also be used to understand different perspectives and realities around a shared history.



### Building the Timeline

1. Prepare an empty physical timeline on a large sheet of paper or present the equivalent in a similar digital format (think [Prezi](#) or [Mural](#)); Try to keep enough open/free space for you or others to add to later
2. Start by listing any significant historical events
3. Read through the events as a group
4. Allow people to add events they think might be missing
5. Highlight the collective events that stand out to you



### Invite Discussion

Wrap up the activity with prompts or questions to help participants process the timeline and spark deeper conversations.

#### Examples:

- What key events stand out to you?
- What's important that we witness about this history?
- What's coming up for us?