

Plessy v. Ferguson / Photograph Analysis—Answer Key



Jack Delano, photographer, "At the bus station in Durham, North Carolina," Durham, North Carolina, May 1940, Photograph, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017747598/>.

Observe

1. What do you notice first?

Student answers will vary but may include:

- Sign stating "COLORED WAITING ROOM"
- Bus/train
- Black man dressed in tie and suspenders
- Posters

2. What people and objects are shown?

Student answers will vary but may include:

- Sign stating "COLORED WAITING ROOM"
- Bus/train
- Black man dressed in tie and suspenders

- Posters

3. What is the setting?

Bus station in Durham, North Carolina in 1940

Reflect

4. What is happening in this image?

Student answers will vary but may include that a Black man is waiting in/outside the “Colored waiting room” for his bus/train.

5. What is significant about when this photo was taken?

This photograph was taken in 1940, long after the 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868. It was taken after the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) created the “separate but equal doctrine.” It was taken 14 years before *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) would declare that separate is inherently unequal.

6. How does this image relate to the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*?

It was taken after the decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) created the “separate but equal doctrine.” The situation in *Plessy*, segregated seating on a train, was very similar to this situation.

Question

7. What do you still wonder about?

Student answers will vary.

Caption

8. Write a caption for this image.

Student answers will vary.