

Look at the picture

What kind of people do you think are shown?

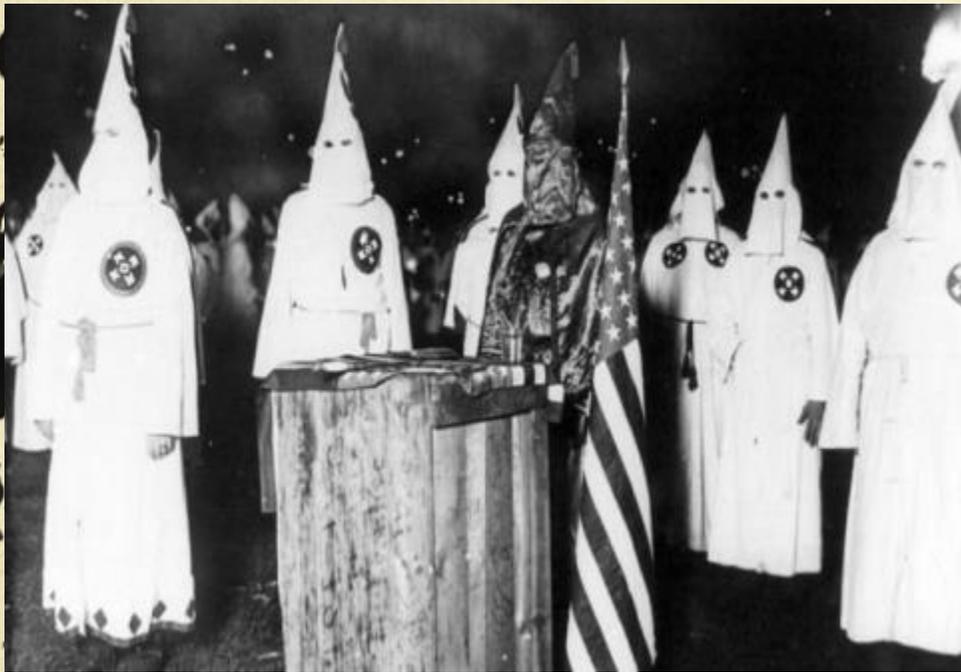
Rich? poor? Respectable?

Look at carefully at their faces- do they look happy? Sad?

Where do you think they are?



KKK



National 5 History

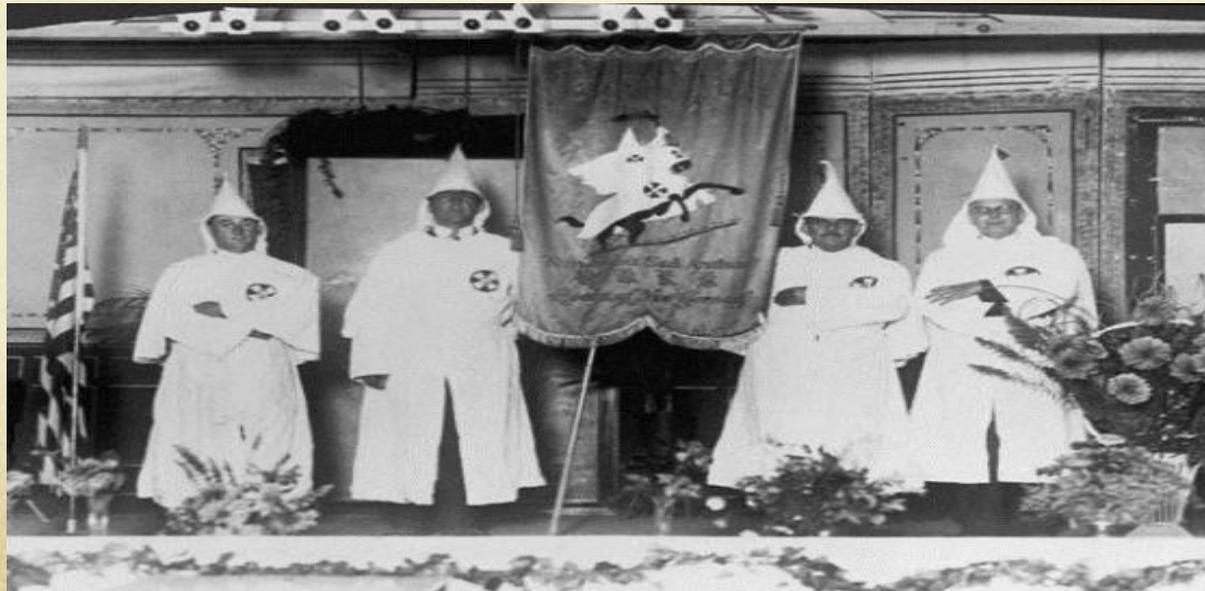
KKK

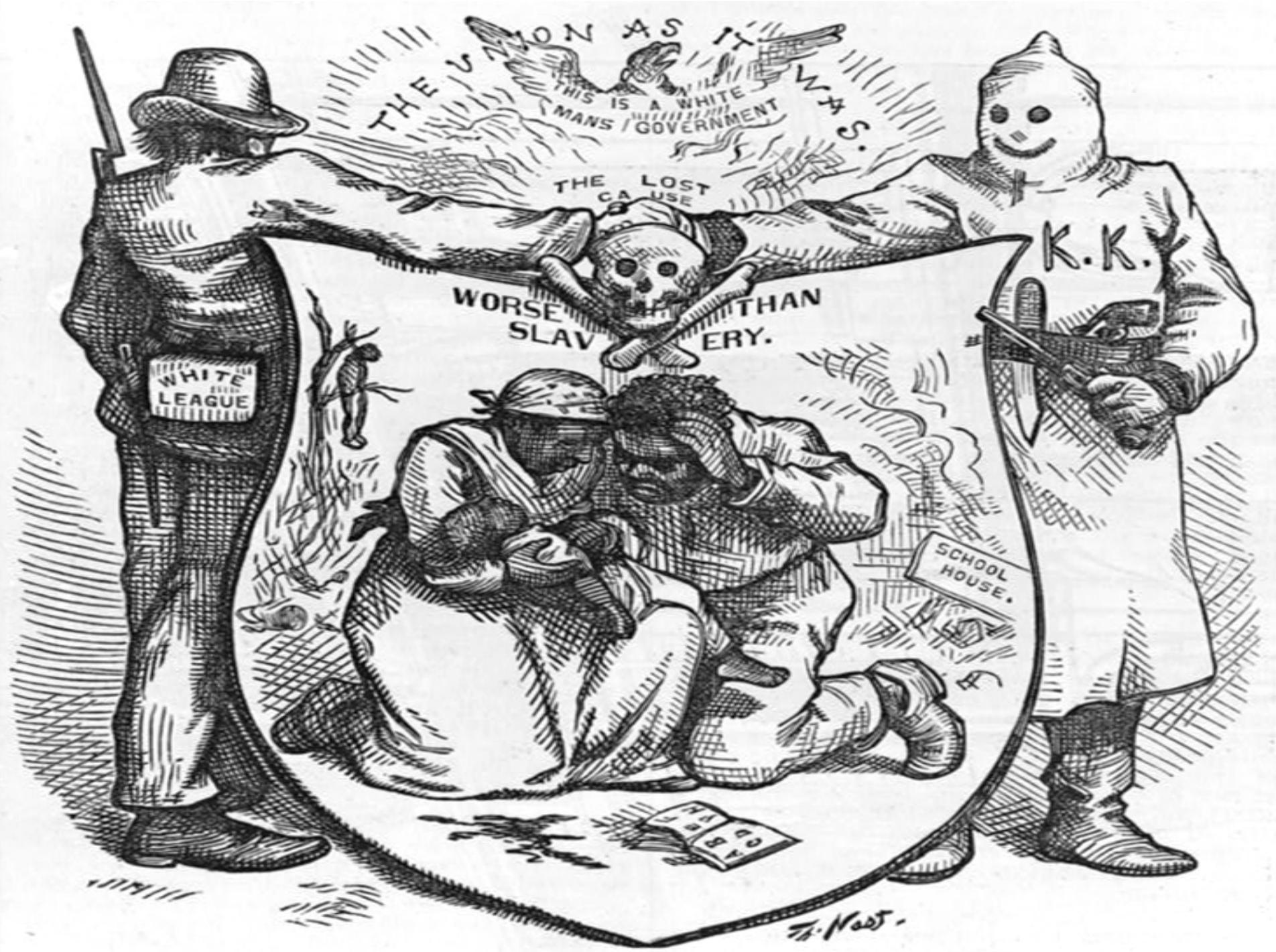
- KKK started in the late 1860s as a way of controlling newly freed slaves.
- The KKK terrorised rural communities with night time raids on black households carried out by heavily armed men in scary disguises.



KKK

- Rumours were deliberately put about that the KKK was really the returning ghosts of soldiers killed in the civil war.
- The KKK spread quickly, supported by white southerners who wanted to be able to control the large numbers of freed slaves.





THE UNION AS IT WAS.
THIS IS A WHITE
MAN'S GOVERNMENT

THE LOST
CAUSE

WORSE
SLAV THAN
ERY.

WHITE
LEAGUE

K.K.

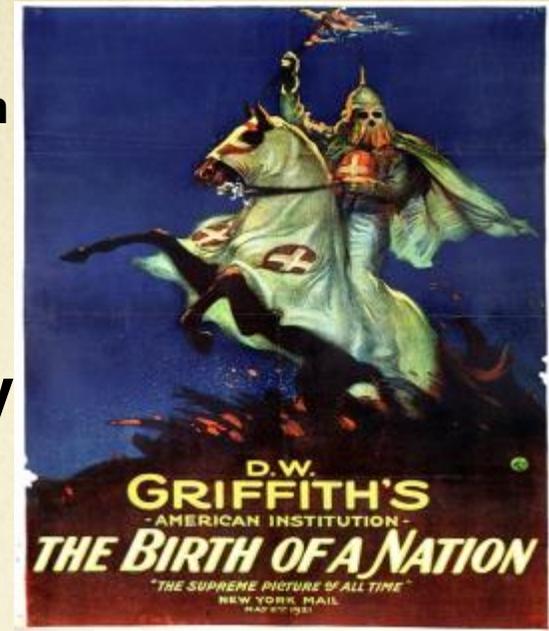
SCHOOL
HOUSE.

C.A.B.

T. Nast.

KKK

- The KKK was and still is a terrorist organisation. It died down in the 19th century but in 1915 a new Klan was established.
- The new Klan was helped by a newly released blockbuster called 'Birth of a Nation'.
- The movie showed the KKK as protectors of southern white society against black terror.
- The film was a huge success and became the first film to make \$10 million. It was also the first movie to be shown in the white house, the home of the US president.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMVognai5P4>

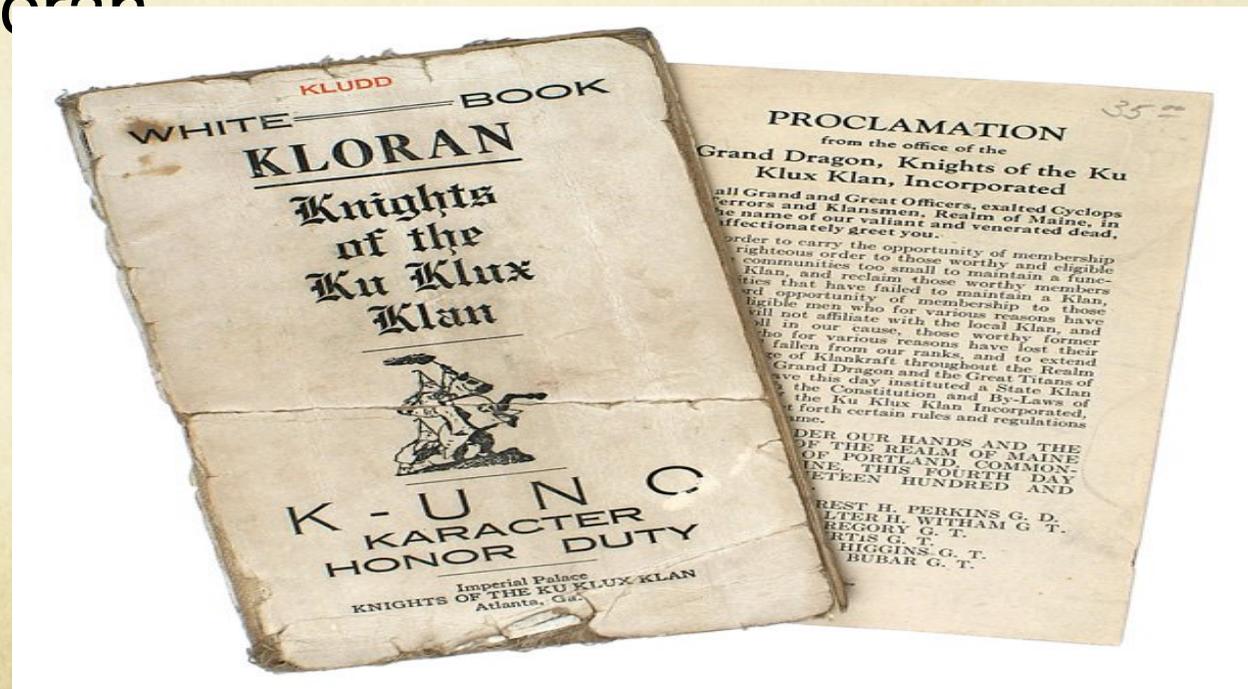
KKK

- The KKK was known as the invisible empire led by a Grand Wizard of the Empire.
- Local Klan organisations were called klaverns and KKK members had to be native born Americans, white, Protestant, male and 16 or over.
- **NO BLACK AMERICANS, JEWS, CATHOLICS ALLOWED!**
- There were special Klan sections for women.



KKK

- By 1915 the KKK uniform had been created. Klansmen wore robes or sheets and masks topped with pointed hoods.
- The Klan's 'holy book', apart from the Bible, was called the Kloran



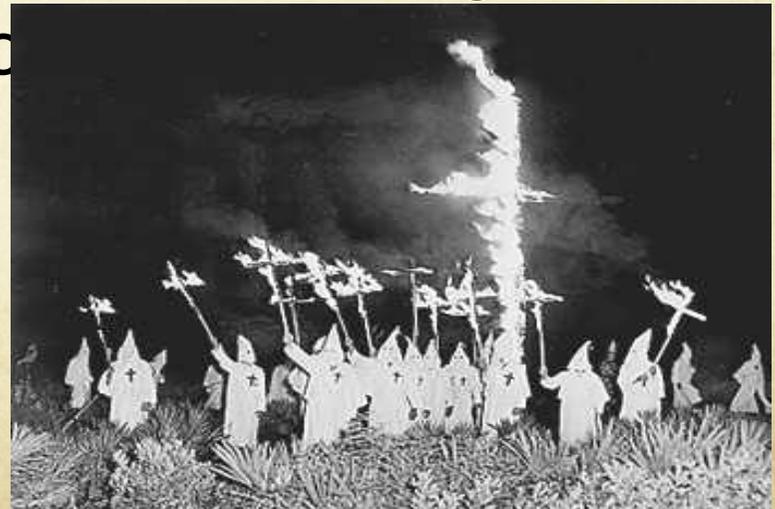
KKK

- The new KKK claimed to be a patriotic organisation protecting 'the American way of life' and devoted to '100% Americanism'
- The KKK believed that black Americans were inferior human beings and were therefore against any civil rights laws.
- The Klan was also against Catholics, Jews and even divorced women.
- After 1920 the Klan grew quickly.



KKK

- The KKK burned large crosses on hillsides and near homes of people they wished to frighten.
- If the intended victims still would not do what the Klansmen wanted them to do, victims might be kidnapped, whipped, mutilated or murdered.
- Masked Klansmen marched through the streets of town and cities carrying posters threatening various people and warning others to



KKK

- Black Americans in the southern states lived in fear of lynching. Lynching meant black people being murdered by a mob who believed the black person had done something wrong.
- Victims were hanged and mutilated and sometimes their





KKK

- The federal government (national government of the USA) did almost nothing to stop lynching and it was very difficult for black Americans to find justice in the South. The KKK was heavily involved with lynching.

It is important to note that lynching was illegal. There was no trial, no defence and no judge. It was not until 1952 that no lynchings were reported- almost 90 years after the civil war. Of course that does not necessarily mean that nobody was lynched...

Billie Holiday- Strange Fruit

- Originally a poem by Abel Meeropol in 1937 as a protest to racism in America.
- It was recorded as a song in 1939 by Billie Holiday.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98CxkS0vzB8>

KKK How Important?

- It is difficult to know how many members the Klan had because it was a secret organisation. One estimate of KKK membership, made in 1924, when the Klan was at peak strength was 3 million.
- It is important to note that the Klan had powerful and important friends. In the 1920s, the KKK was powerful enough to hold large marches through Washington- the capital of the USA.



Reasons for the rise.....

- **Propaganda- “Birth of a Nation” and pamphlets played on white people’s fears.**
- **Widened scope to target all immigrants e.g.. Catholics, Jews so fed into fear of immigrants i.e. Red scare/fear of crime/employment and housing etc.-**
- **Great Migration North- Black people become more of a presence in North American cities. Klan membership rises in these areas. (we’ll cover this tomorrow)**
- **Agricultural depression– led some to look for scapegoats for America’s problems.**

KKK How Important?

- The KKK used terrorist tactics but few Klansmen were arrested and in some places the KKK was helped by local officials.
- By the end of the 1930s, the Klan was not as important as it had been, but terror, fear and difficulty of winning any justice or fair treatment still dominated the minds of black Americans, especially in the South.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQJX8v0sC3Q>

To Kill a Mockingbird

- The novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird' was published in 1960. The author Harper Lee, based her story on events in her hometown in 1936 when she was 10 years old. The novel is set in Alabama in the Deep South. A lawyer Atticus Finch, is appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man who has been accused of raping a young white woman. Finch becomes a figure of hate in the town for defending a black man. A white mob calls him a 'nigger lover' when Finch stops a mob from lynching Tom. Atticus Finch proves that Tom did not commit the crime but the jury find him guilty. Faced with the death penalty, Tom tries to escape from prison but is shot dead.
- The novel shows the intolerance, prejudice and race hatred that existed in the Southern states of the USA in the 1930s.