

Name: _____

Date: _____



O. W. Gurley

1868 - Unknown

O. W. Gurley was an educator and entrepreneur who made his fortune with land and business ownership. He believed strongly in group economics and focused developing a thriving Black neighborhood in Greenwood, Tulsa, Oklahoma which became known as Black Wall Street.

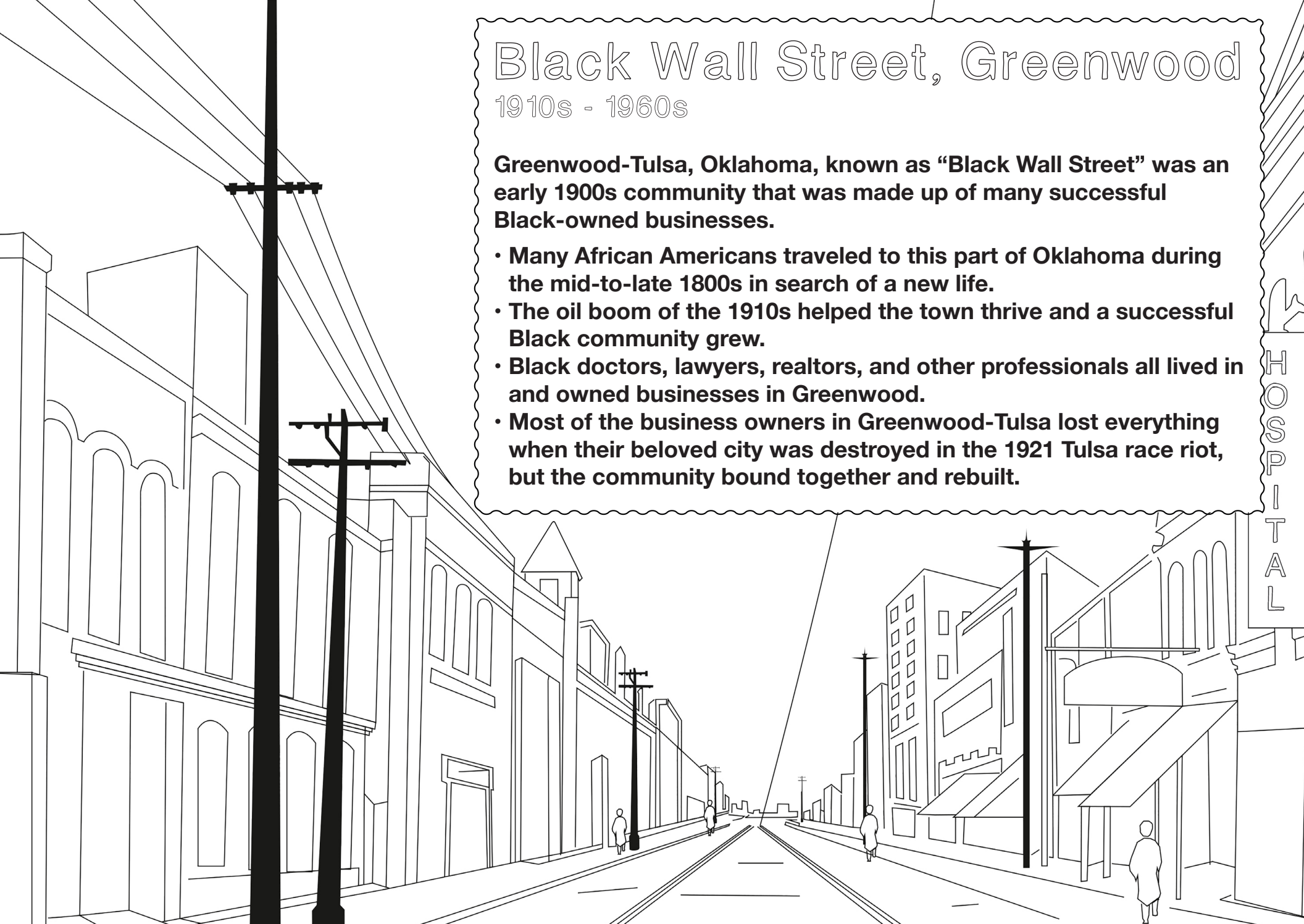
- In the late 1800s Gurley resigned from a presidential appointment under president Grover Cleveland in order to have a try at land ownership.
- By the early 1900s he had acquired land and businesses and was growing his portfolio. It was in 1906 that he moved to Tulsa to start developing the area of Greenwood.
- He purchased 40 acres of land which was only to be sold to Black people, Black ownership was a concept almost unheard of at the time.
- His first businesses in the area was a rooming house on a dusty trail near the railroad tracks. This road was given the name Greenwood Avenue.

Black Wall Street, Greenwood

1910s - 1960s

Greenwood-Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as “Black Wall Street” was an early 1900s community that was made up of many successful Black-owned businesses.

- Many African Americans traveled to this part of Oklahoma during the mid-to-late 1800s in search of a new life.
- The oil boom of the 1910s helped the town thrive and a successful Black community grew.
- Black doctors, lawyers, realtors, and other professionals all lived in and owned businesses in Greenwood.
- Most of the business owners in Greenwood-Tulsa lost everything when their beloved city was destroyed in the 1921 Tulsa race riot, but the community bound together and rebuilt.



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Open for Business



Business Owner

When you are a business owner you get the chance to try and sell to other people in order to earn money. You can choose to sell your own products or services. You can sell other people's products within your property for a profit or provide a mix of products and services.

- Sankofa Club is a business, we create and sell educational materials to the Black community.
- Running a business is hard work, you have to keep on top of all the finances, the money coming in, going out and make sure you pay your taxes to the government.
- You also have to charge the right prices, so that you can make a profit, enough money to pay your bills, feed yourself and maybe your family too and have enough left over to enjoy your life.
- You also have to be on the forefront on your industry, developing and constantly learning to keep up with changes and be ahead of the curve. Learning may well be the most important thing in business.

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Group Economics

Group Economics is a concept whereby a group of people with a similar economic interest decide to work together to create a stable and beneficial economic environment. In simple terms, people do business mostly within a single community to keep the money within the group.

Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma was an excellent example of successful group economics in practice. Many Black residents also owned businesses. People shopped within their community and also worked there, keeping things economically stable using group economics and ensuring as much money as possible could be rotated to ensure everyone's success. This strengthened the economic position of everyone, increased property values and business values and community.

Many are striving to create a better environment of Group Economics within Black communities in the United States today, in order to improve everyone's lives and opportunities.