

Curiosity Lab 7

**Why are we still talking
about race & racism?**

Do you like games?



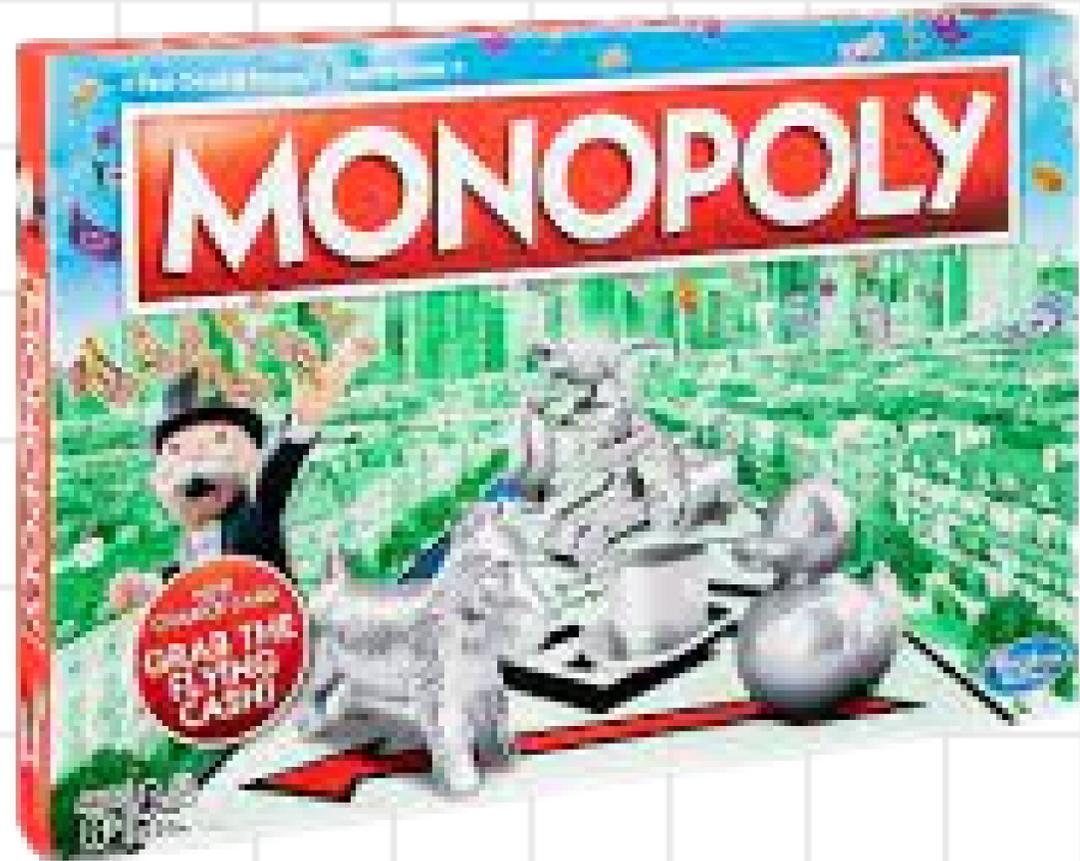
**What are your
favorite board
games?**



We're going to
be talking
about the game
of Monopoly
today.



**Have you played the game of
Monopoly before?**



In the game, each player gets the same amount of game money to start with, and chooses a mover piece to put on the "start" square.



**Players take turns
rolling dice to go
around the board
with their movers,
landing on different
squares that give
options for that turn.**

Which mover would you choose?





The purpose of the game is to earn as much money as you can.

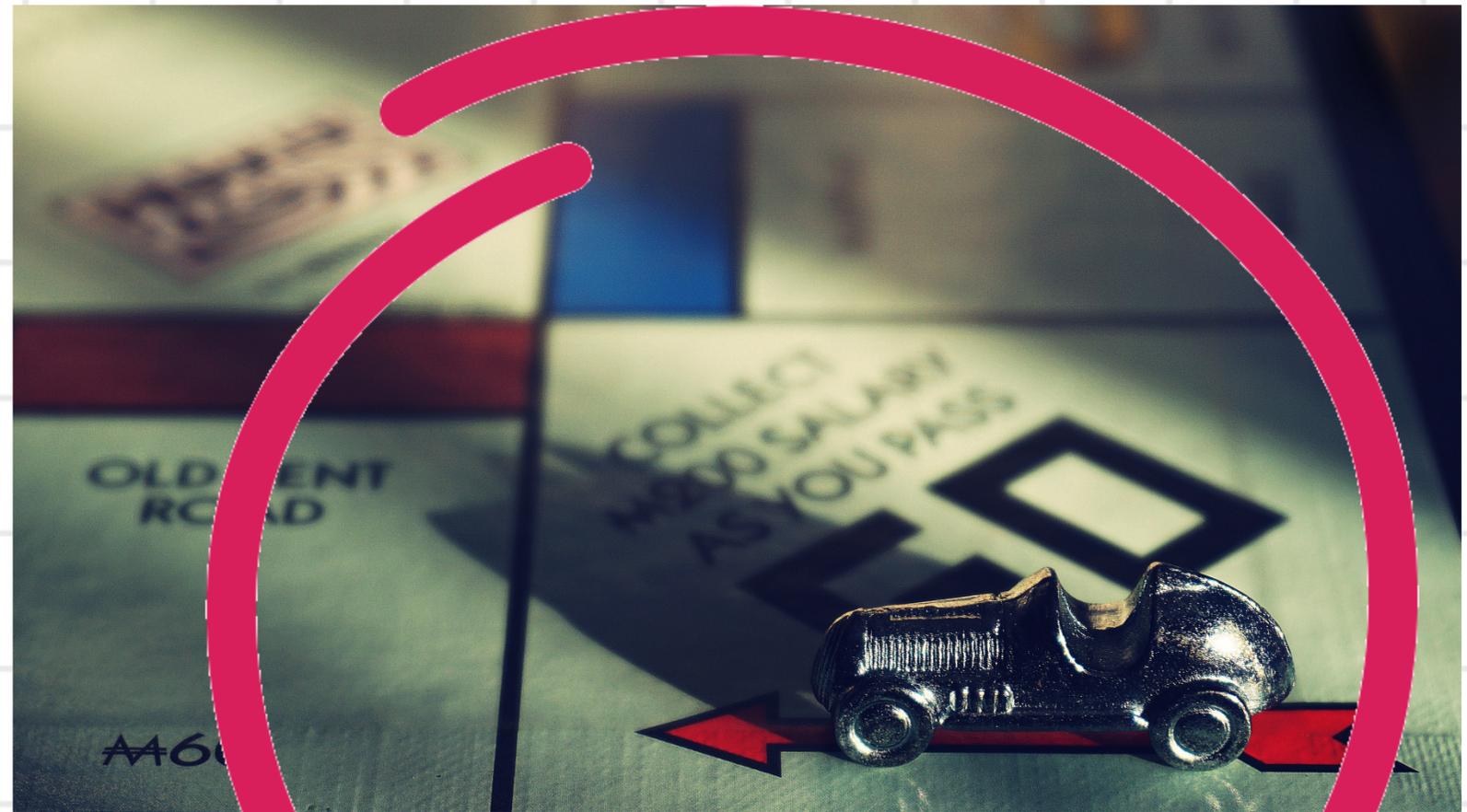
The best way to earn money is to buy "properties," which in the game are some of the squares on the board.

When other players land on the square that you "own," they have to pay you "RENT" using some of their money.



There are some other ways to earn money, too.

Just by playing the game, every time you make it around the board and pass 'Go,' you get \$200.



And, there are a few special spots on the board.

Sometimes, the spot you land on tells you to pick up a "Chance" card, and you have to follow what the card says to do.

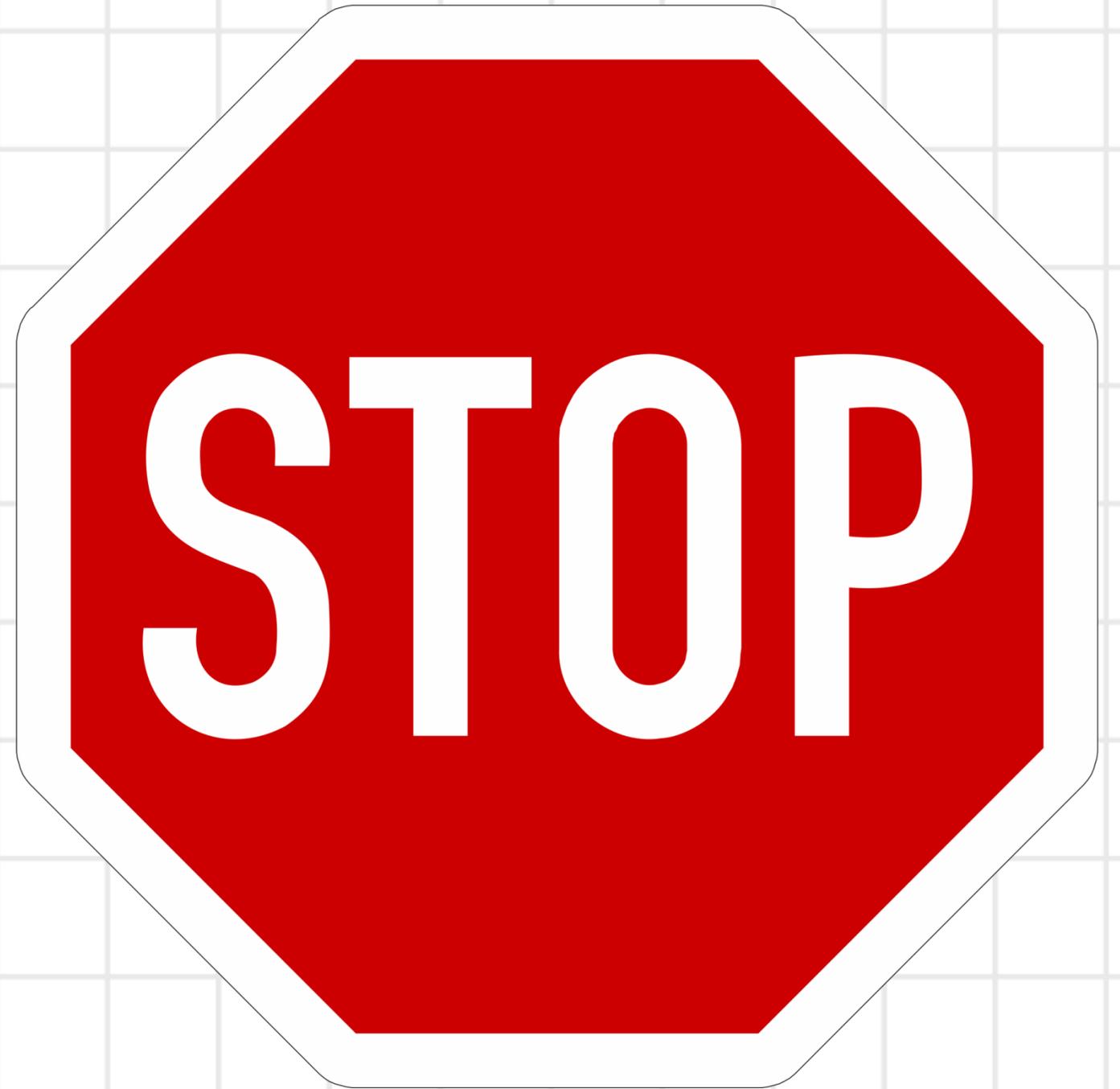


**Sometimes
these cards
give you good
things, like
winning the
lottery or a
scholarship.**

Sometimes, though,
these cards have you
do things that

SLOW YOU DOWN

and prevent you from
earning money...



Sometimes you have to

PAY FOR TICKETS

or

SKIP YOUR TURN

3 TIMES IN A ROW

because you were

SENT TO JAIL.



Let's see what kind of chance card we get!

Press ▶ to spin the wheel

Entries 8

Add a new entry... **Add**

- skip turn
- Pay \$750
- ticket pay \$500
- double your money
- Get \$500

ticket pay \$500

double you...

Get \$500

Go to jail

Get out of jail...

Bank pays...

skip turn

Pay \$750

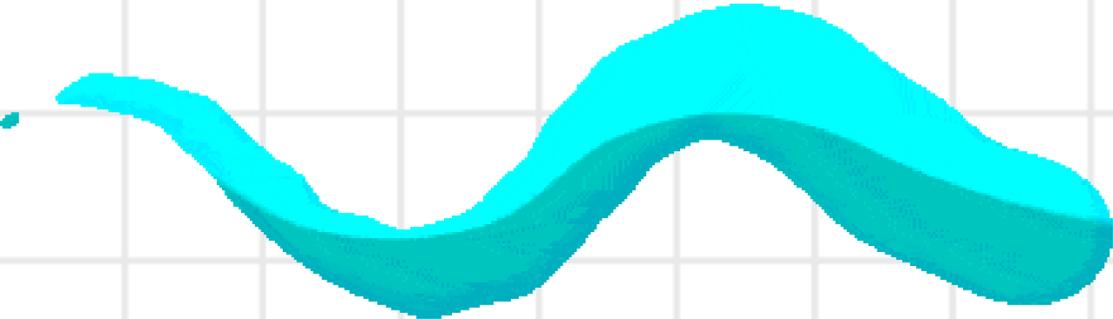
ticket pay \$500

In the game, everyone
starts out with the

SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY...



and **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**



to buy properties and earn money.

But...

WHAT IF

the game of Monopoly were like real life?

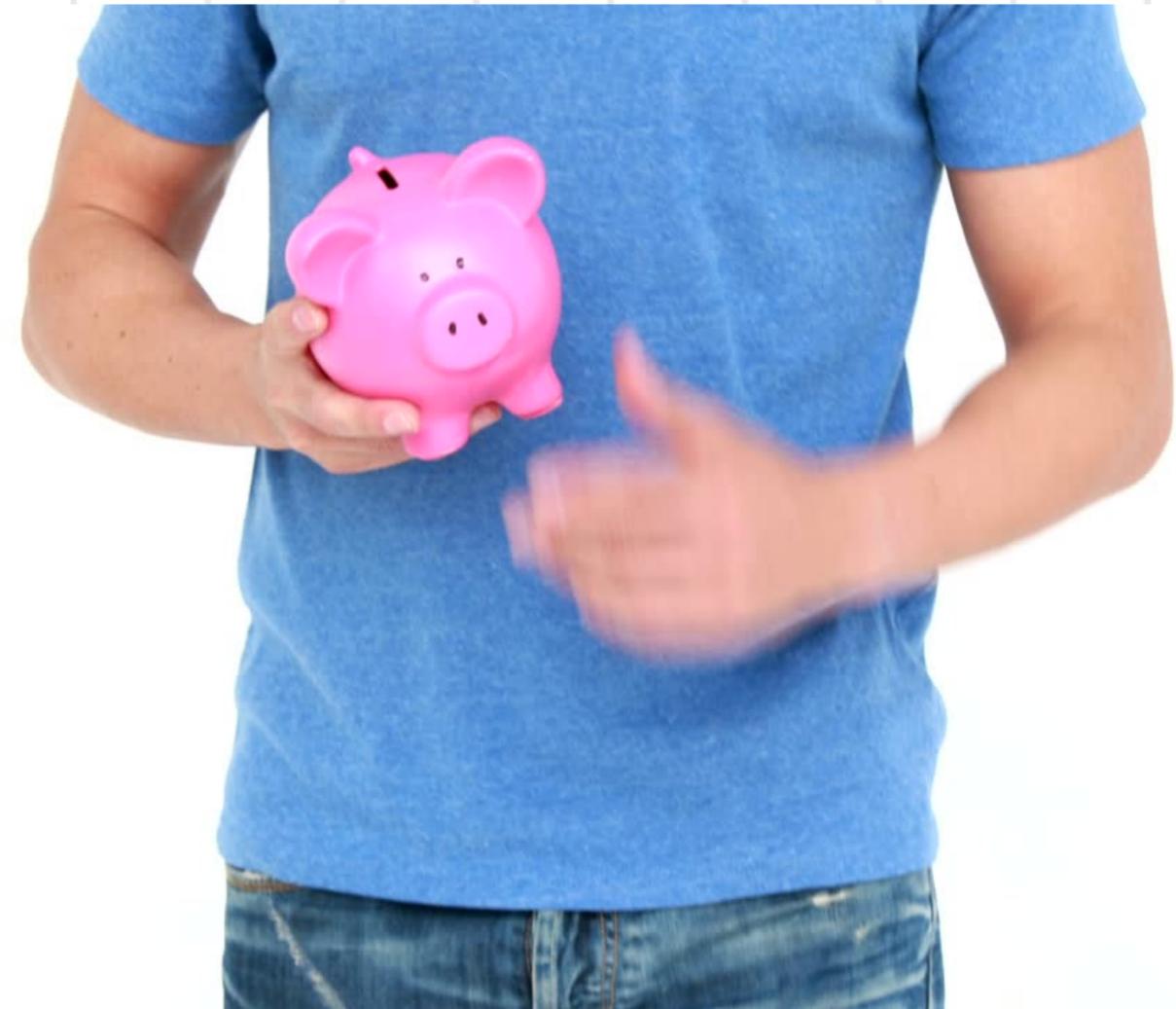
Would everyone start out with the
same amount of money, and
would everyone have
equal chances
and opportunities to earn money
and buy houses?



**Would everyone have
the same likelihood of
getting "good" chance
cards that help you
earn more money?**



...and would everyone have the same likelihood of getting chance cards that prevent you from earning money?



Discuss!

If real life
were like the game of Monopoly,
would everyone start out with the
same amount of money?
Would everyone have
equal opportunities
to earn money?

Poll:

Do you think all Americans have equal chances of earning money in real life?

Poll:

Do you think all Americans have equal chances of getting helpful "chance cards" in real life?

**You've probably already discovered that
there's a lot of unfairness in real life...**

**...so you might not be surprised to hear that
if real life were like a Monopoly game,**

**people in America would not start out with the
same amount of money.**

**All sorts of unfair things
can happen in life.**

Share:

**Talk about some things that are
unfair in real life.**

**Sure, there's some chance
involved in how unfair life can
be, but a huge part of the
unfairness in America
is not here by accident.**

"By accident" means that no one meant for something to happen a certain way, that no one planned for it.

**The opposite of "by accident" is "intention."
That means that someone purposely did something.**

**The unfairness started
over 400 years ago.**

**Let's travel back in time to the coast of
Africa to understand what happened.**

**Africa is a huge
continent full of many
different cultures,
languages, and nations.**



To get an idea of just how big Africa is, look at this picture that shows how all of these countries put together are still smaller than Africa.

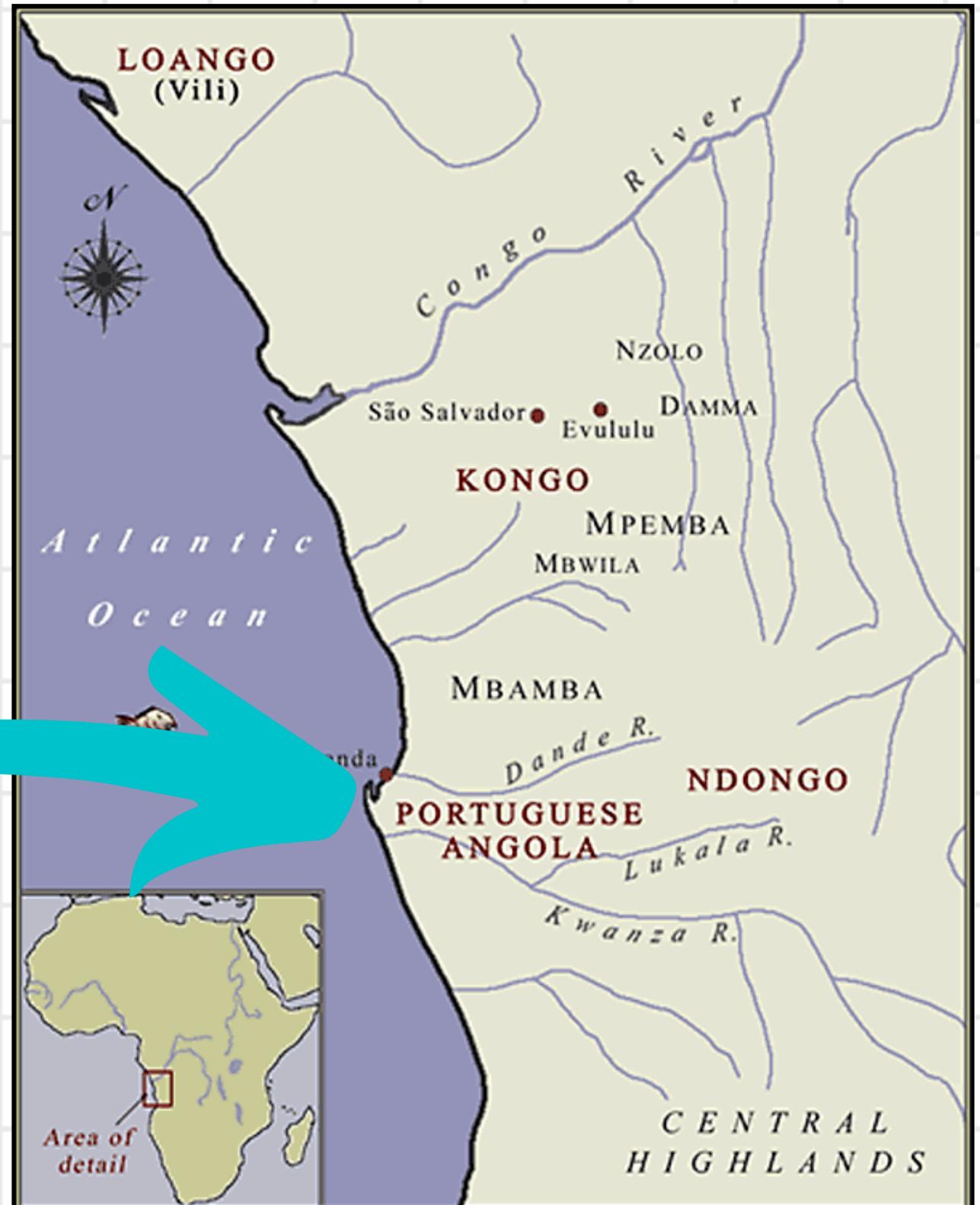


Reference: "*Africa Is Way Bigger Than You Think*" by Mark Fischetti. Scientific American June 16, 2015



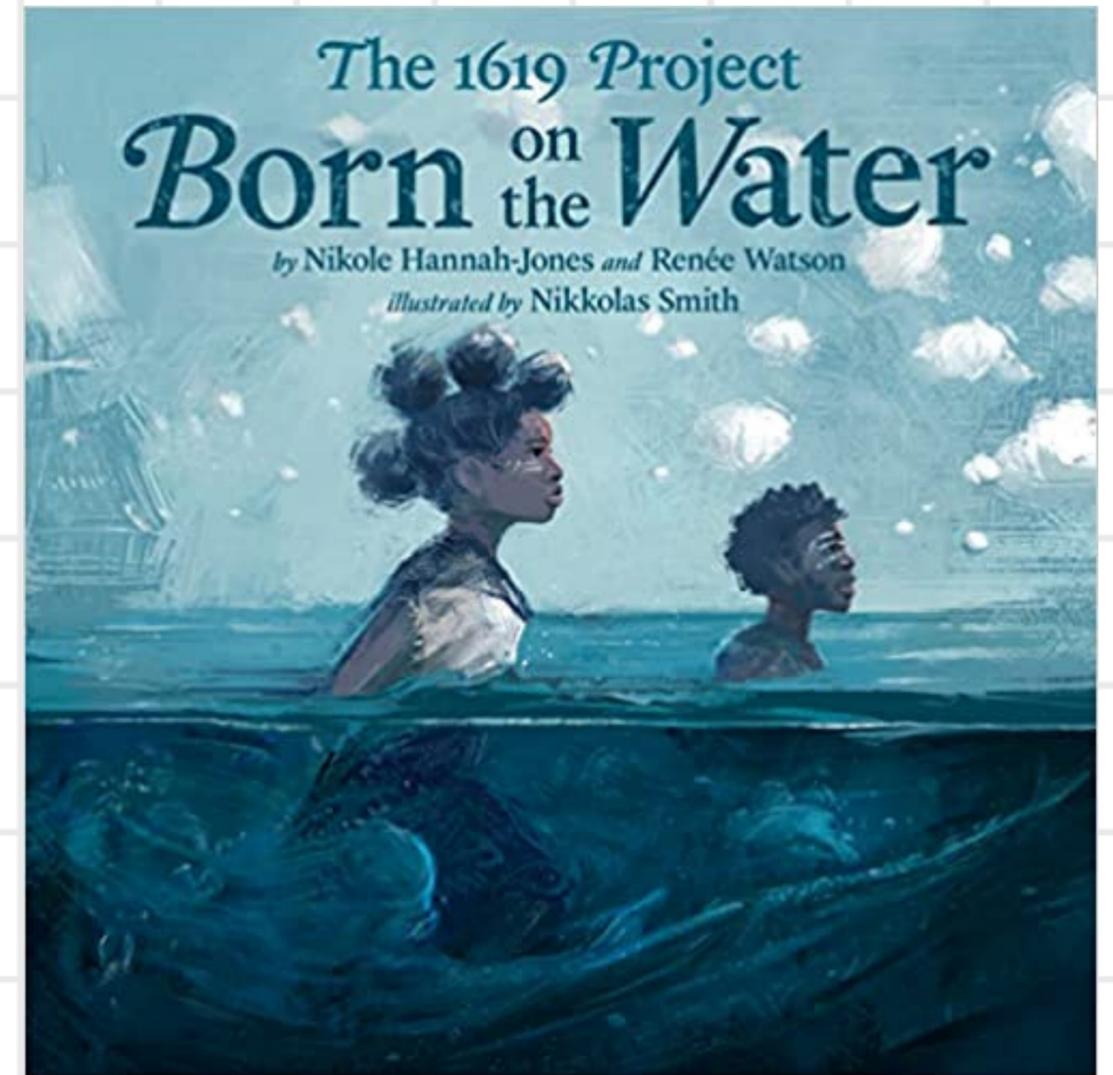
Graphic by Bryan Christie and Kai Krause, for **SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN**

Let's go back in time
400 years to the
western coast of Africa,
to a nation called
Ndongo.

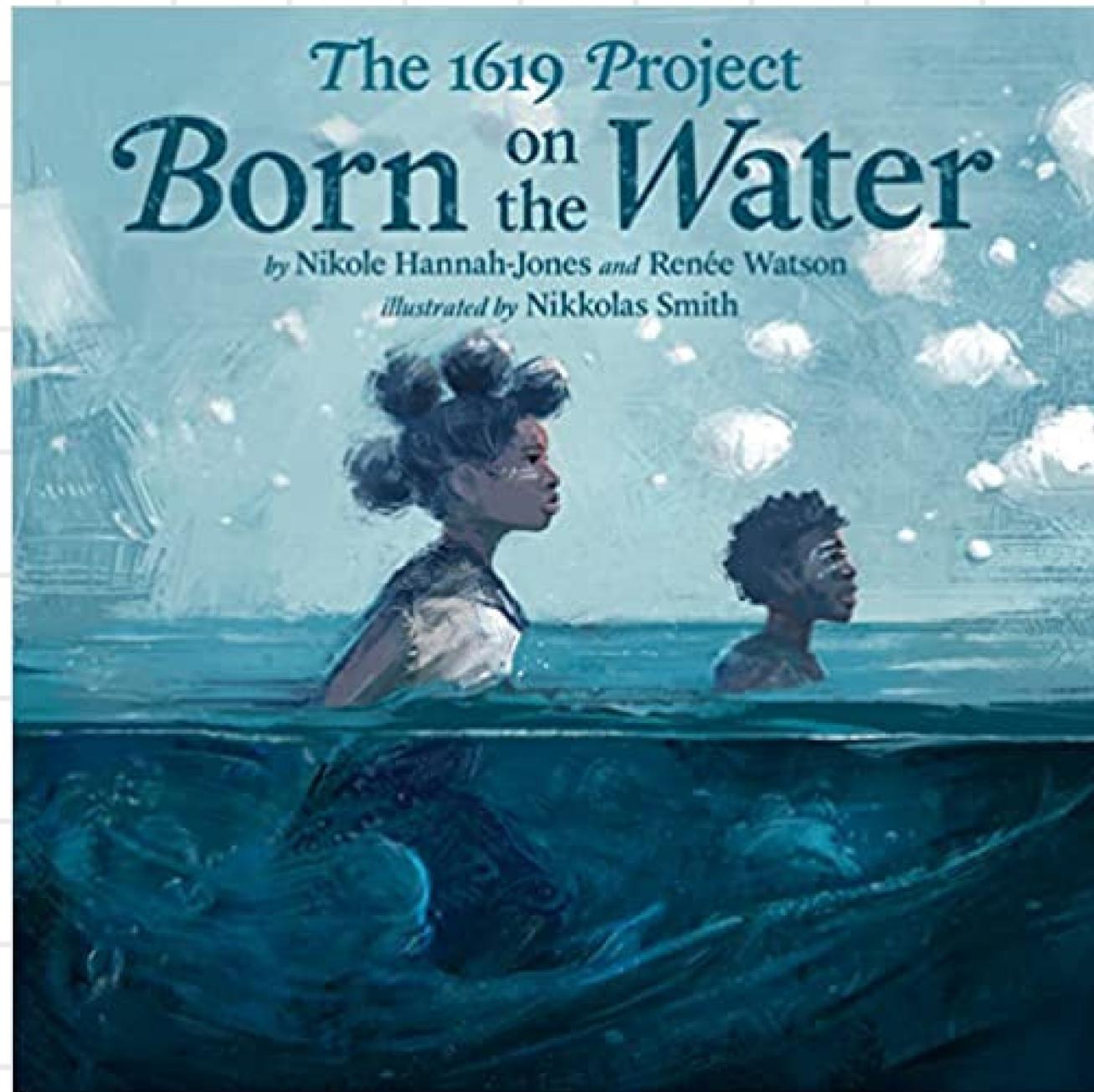


We're going to read some sections from this book.

In the first sections we will imagine what Ndongo might have been like 400 years ago.



Born on the Water
by Nikole Hannah-Jones
and Renée Watson

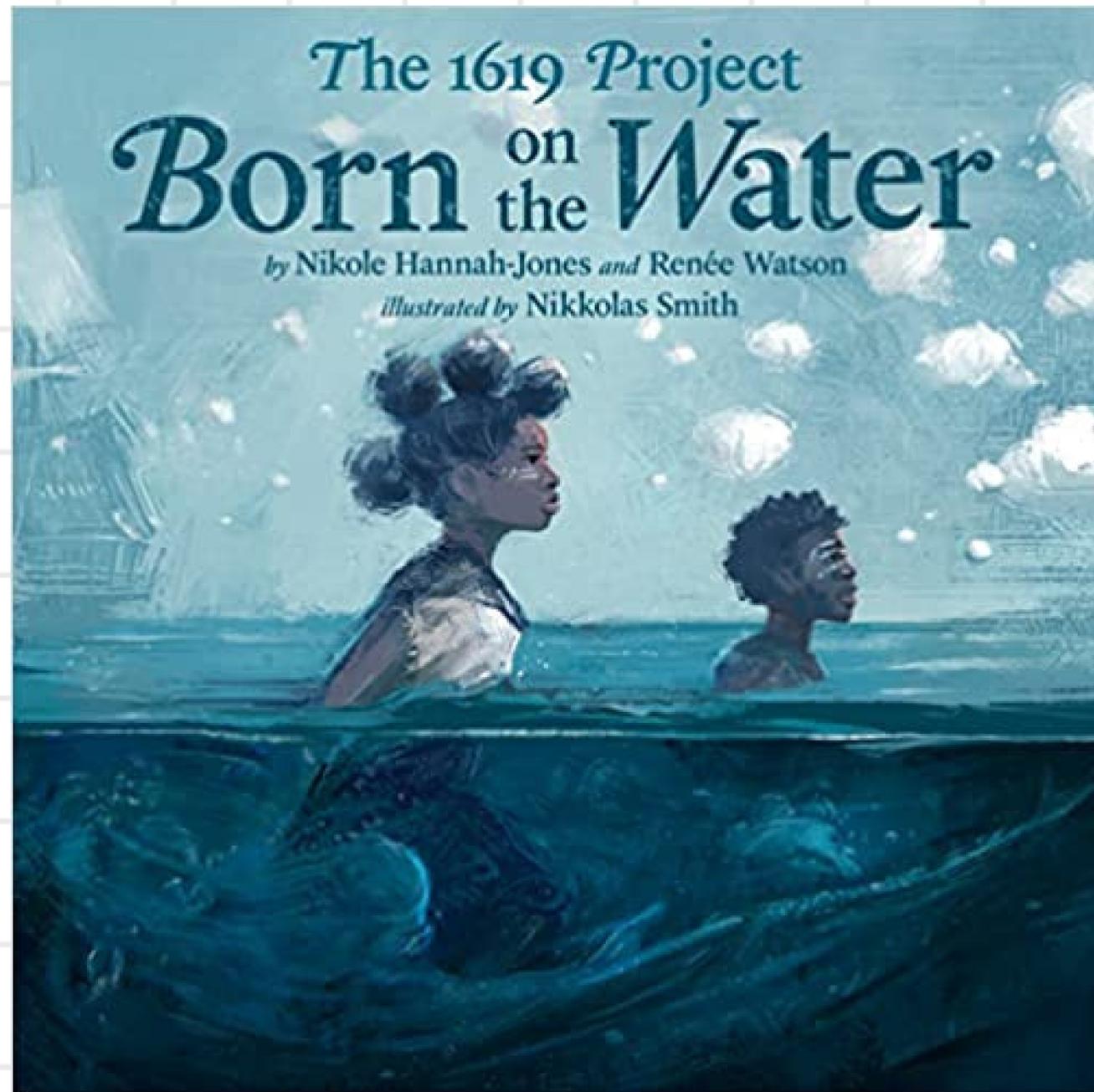


Read the following selections:

- *"What Grandma Tells Me"*
- *"They Had a Language"*
- *"Their Hands Had a Knowing"*
- *"And They Danced"*

**But then some white people saw
a chance to become rich.**

**They forced Black African people to
leave their lives - their homes and
families...**



Read the following selection:

- "*Stolen*"

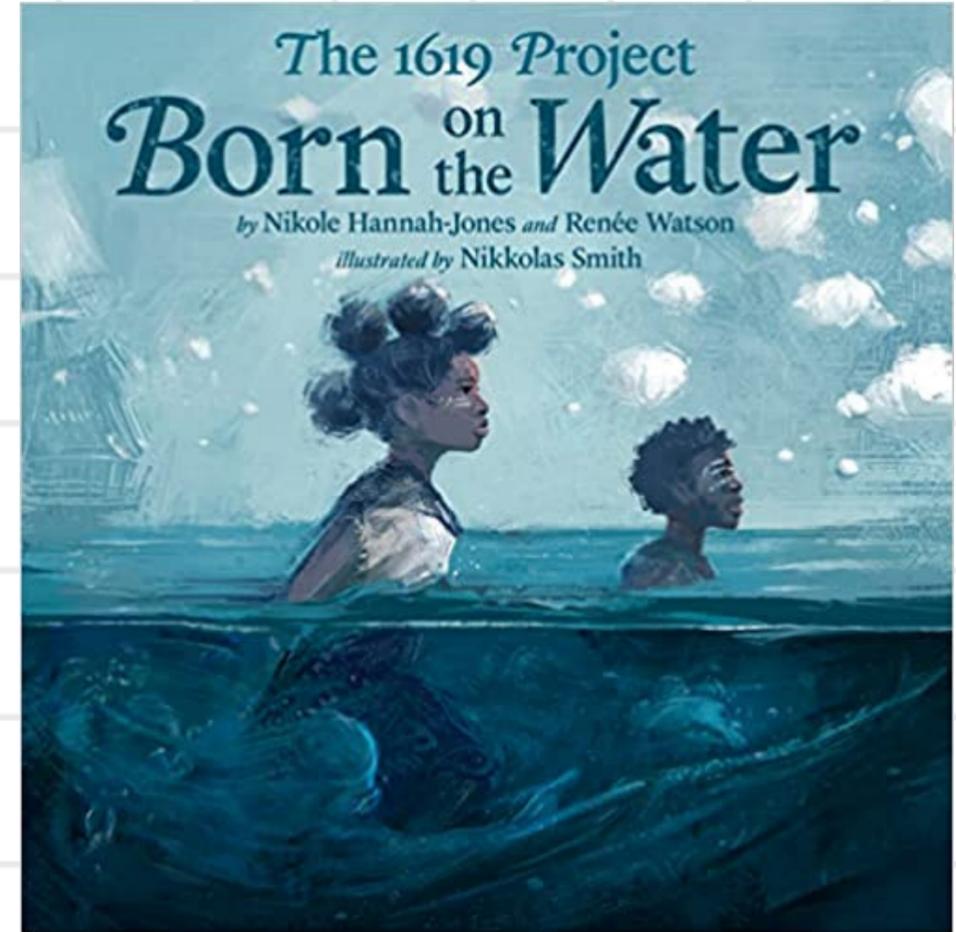
Depending on your audience, thoughtfully consider also reading the following selections:

- "*The White Lion*"
- "*Point Comfort*"

They forced them to go to America and work for them for free.

Read the following selections:

- *"Tobacco Fields"*
- *"How to Make a Home"*



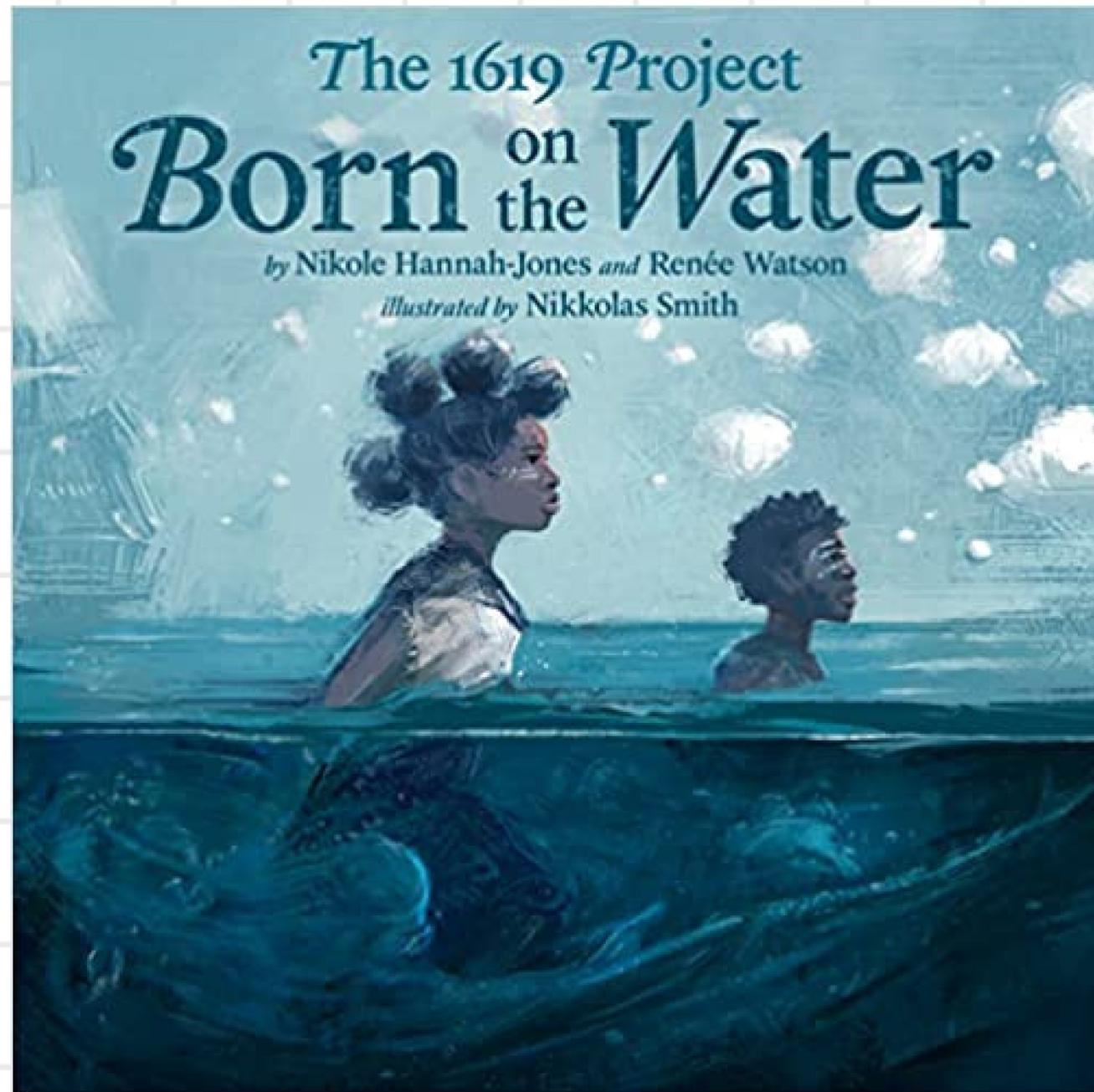
**You know what
that was called...**

slavery....

**and it was
intentional.**

In America, white leaders created a system of chattel slavery -

which meant that in addition to lack of freedom, and no pay for work done, Black people were treated as property that could be bought & sold.



Read the following selection:

- *"Resist"*

**All of that meant that in America,
white people could earn money and
pass it down to their children and
descendants for 246 more years than
Black people.**

For Black people who were enslaved, there was no money to pass down to their kids.

No land.

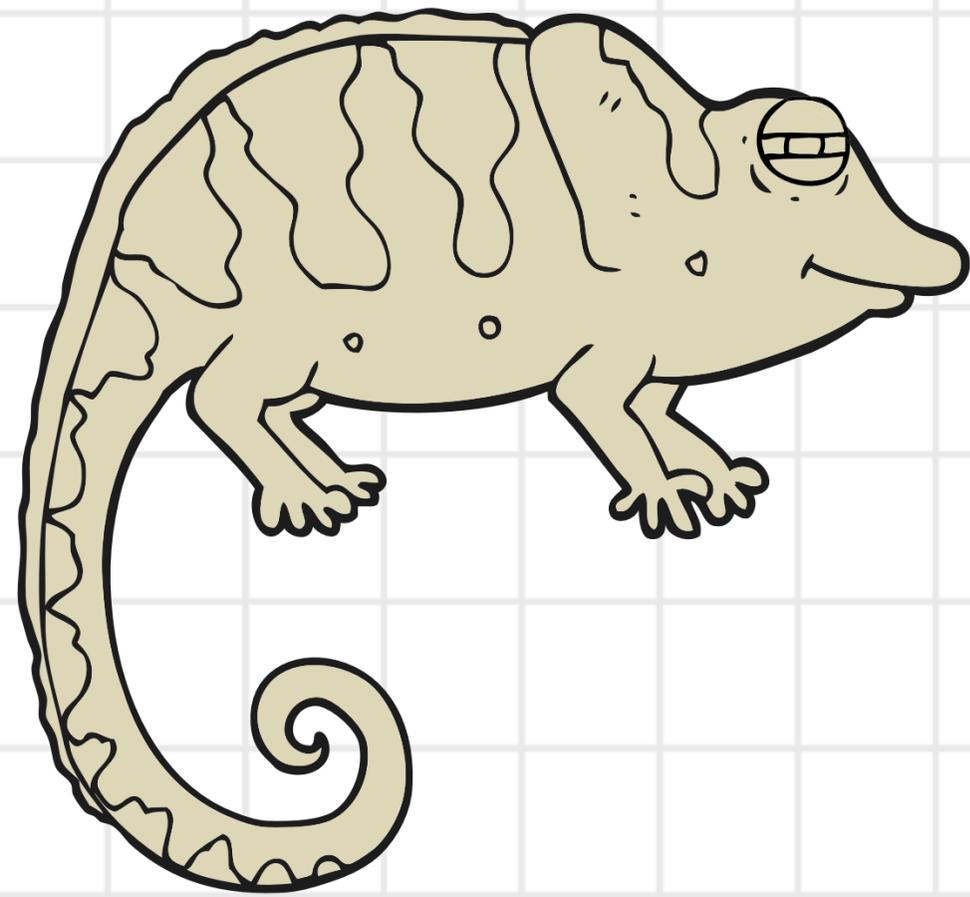
No businesses.

No extra money for college.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Even though they had worked day after day, they earned nothing, and started with nothing.

**Imagine playing a Monopoly
game where one player has to
skip their first 246 turns.**



Let's pause here
and do a feelings
check with your
family.

wondering

HOPEFUL

sad

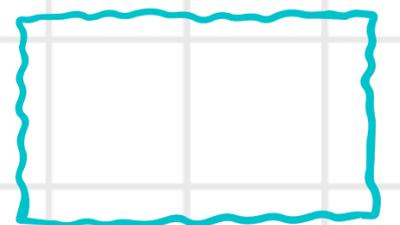
guilty

OVERWHELMED

vulnerable

sick

DETERMINED



brave

eager

angry

empowered

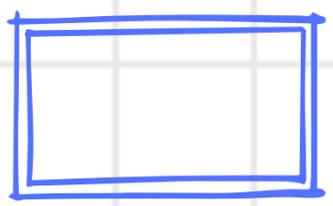
open

confused

inspired

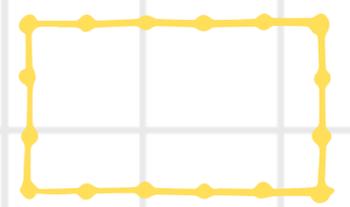
HURT

uncomfortable



DEFENSIVE

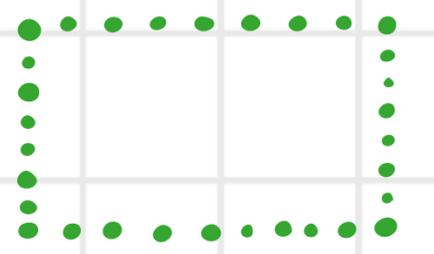
embarrassed



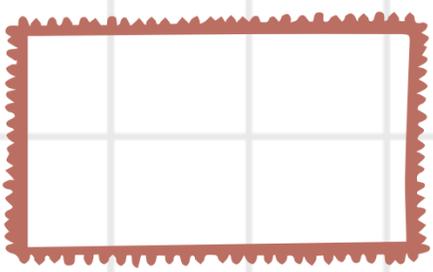
trapped

surprised

SERIOUS



disappointed



Thoughtful

CURIOUS

responsible

APPRECIATED

amazed

**But the end of slavery was not the end
of the unfairness.**

The truth is that racist ideas and laws

DID NOT END

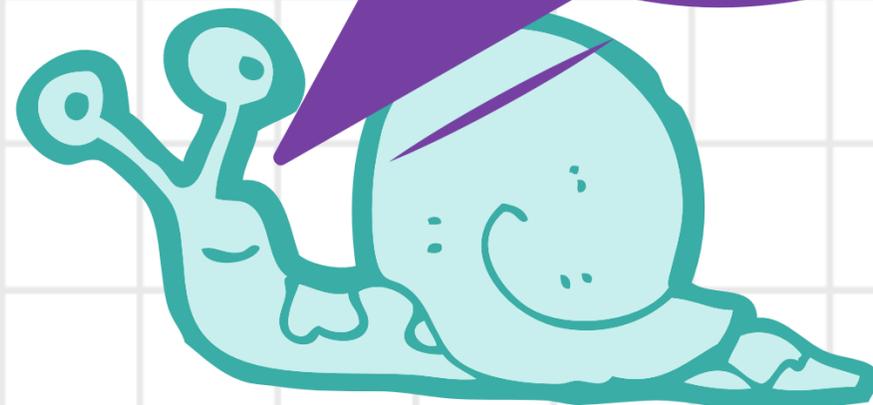
with slavery, or with Civil Rights Laws.

Let's remember together what we mean when we say "racism."

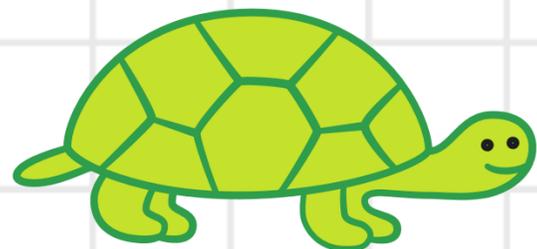
**Racism says that
all the people of a
race look and act
the same way.**



**Racism says that
some racial
groups are better
than others
(superior), and
some are worse
(inferior).**



**Let's remember together
what we mean when we
say "antiracist."**



**Thank you
Dr. Kendi!**



**"An antiracist idea is
any idea that suggests
the racial groups are
equals in all their
apparent differences -
that there is nothing
right or wrong with any
racial group."**

**The racist ideas that
began over 400
years ago continue
to cause unfairness
today. How is that?**

**Even though slavery had ended,
many people (including American
leaders who may have fought
against slavery) weren't ready to
change their minds about Black
people or other people of color.**

They believed that it was better to be white than to be Black, even going so far as to say that Black people weren't human.

Poll: Are those racist or antiracist ideas?

Share:

What is actually true about people and race? You can think about skin tones, stereotypes, culture, or other things you have learned.

American leaders' racist thinking affected how they wrote laws...including

...what **JOBS** Black people could have

...in what **NEIGHBORHOODS**
Black people could live

...which **SCHOOLS**
Black children could go to

...even which

WATER FOUNTAINS Black people could use.



And they passed down their racist ideas to the next generations.

Even though there have been some changes,

STILL TODAY

Black people and white people don't experience the same treatment and opportunities.

Their racist thinking created two different sets of rules for the same game.

It's as if Black people and white people have different stacks of chance cards in the game of Monopoly.



White people have their own set of "chance" cards

Benefit of doubt

Entries 7

Add a new entry... **Add**

- Lots of mirrors
- Easier to get a loan
- More job options
- Lower housing costs
- Education

Lots of mirrors...

Easier to get a loan...

More job options...

Lower housing costs...

Education

Higher wages...

Benefit of ...

**And there's a different set
of rules for Black people...**

**...giving Black people a
completely different set of
chance cards.**

Black people have a different set of chance cards

Under-resourced schools

Entries 9

Add a new entry... **Add**

- No mirrors of - mirrors
- Under-resourced schools
- fewer housing options
- fewer job interviews
- longer jail time
- ...

The wheel contains the following segments (clockwise from top):

- fewer hous...
- fewer job i...
- longer jail t...
- less health ...
- lower life e...
- more expe...
- lower inco...
- No mirrors ...
- Under-reso...

Though we've used Monopoly
as an analogy to help us
understand **why** there's
unfairness and inequity in
America,

life isn't really a game.

**When there are
unfair
differences
between two
groups, we call
that inequity.**



**Some people think that the
reason for the inequity
between Black people and
white people is due to the**

FALSE IDEA

**that some races are
better than others.**

Poll:

Is that racist or antiracist thinking?

Brainstorm and discuss:

**What are the real reasons we see
unfairness in job income, education,
and opportunities?**

**above-the-
iceberg racism**

racist laws

**unequal money &
opportunities in
non-white areas**

under-the-iceberg racism

invisible implicit bias

**Black people have many
challenges, from losing 246
years' pay, to racist laws, &
biases that lead to**

unfairness

& fewer opportunities.

Share:

What are your ideas to make things more fair?

It's important to remember
that even though Black, Indigenous,
and People of Color face particular
inequities and challenges because of
racism, that is not how BIPOC
people want to be viewed.

It's important to remember that

the ONLY thing you know about

someone by looking at them

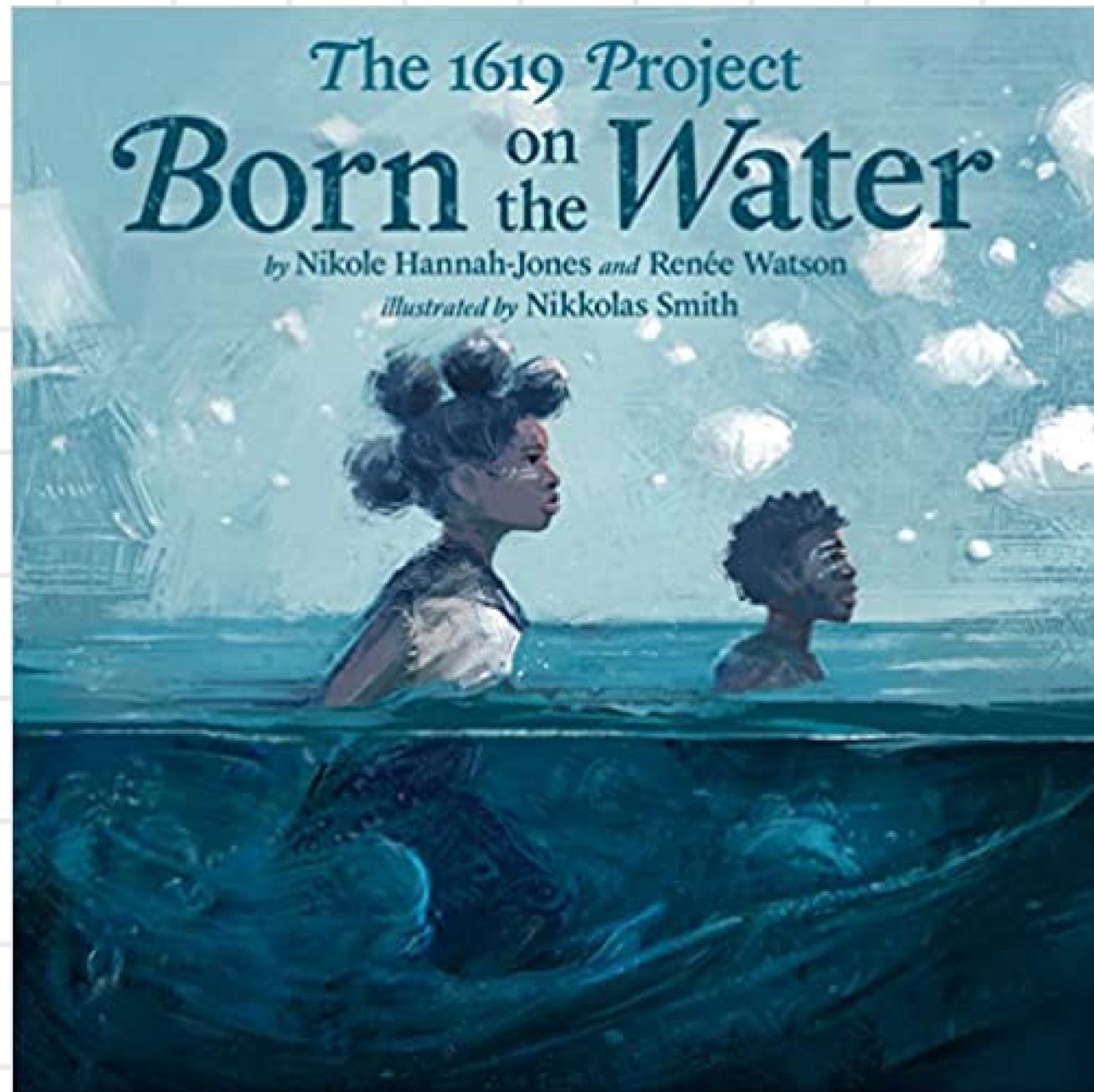
is how much "natural sunscreen"

(melanin) they have.

- **You don't know what particular challenges they or their families have faced.**
- **You don't know how much money they have.**
- **You don't know their talents, their strengths, who loves them, and who they love.**
- **You don't know what's most important to them.**

Learning about the history of racism helps us understand **WHY there's still inequity or unfairness, and racism today.**

It doesn't help us make predictions about specific Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color.



Read the following selection:

- "*Legacy*"

We **ALL** have to “do the work.”

KEEP LEARNING

& SPEAK UP

with the truth –

...that every human being has the same value, the same infinite worth, and deserves equal opportunities and treatment.

Share:

What can YOU do to keep learning?

"So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Share:

**What can YOU do to spread the truth
that all humans are created equal?**

DEDICATED TO

the dream

WORKING TOWARD

AWARENESS & CELEBRATION

**The analogy linking a Monopoly game to understand racism was created by Muktha Jost, Edward L. Whitfield, & Mark Jost
Muktha Jost, Edward L. Whitfield, & Mark Jo**