Unfortunately, segregation was a common practice in South Carolina prior to the mid-1900s. African Americans had to attend different schools, use different bathrooms, and (as seen in this picture) drink from different water fountains.

Laws that enforced segregation were known as "Jim Crow" Laws.

The name came from the song, "Jump Jim Crow," that was featured in a popular play from the 1820s. The actor who sang the song was a white man with his face painted black (so that he looked like an African American). The character is seen here.

Playbill picture of Thomas Dartmouth "Daddy" Rice singing, "Jump Jim Crow" during a minstrel theater performance, circa 1830.
Activity 1: Segregation

Look at the picture on the left of the African American man drinking from the “COLORED” water fountain. The laws of segregation were frustrating to the African American community.

Imagine that you were forced to drink from a different water fountain, or use a different bathroom, or attend a different school than other children. In the space below, write down how you think that would make you feel. Be sure to explain why you would feel that way.

It would make me mad because I don't want to be treated differently than all the other people. I would want to be treated the same way as everyone else. Just because I differ, does not mean I don't have feelings. I would be a human just like them.

Activity 2: Jim Crow

Look at the picture on the left of the character that became known as “Jim Crow”. Below is a list of adjectives. Circle all that you feel describe the character on the left-hand page (you can circle as many as apply).

- Smart
- Intelligent
- Childish
- Well-dressed
- Elegant
- Proper
- Foolish
- Amusing
- Handsome
- Ugly
- Graceful

Africans Americans were insulted by the term “Jim Crow.” Review the answers that you circled above. Based on those answers, write a couple of sentences explaining why African Americans did not want to be compared to the character of “Jim Crow.”

The Blacks didn't want to be compared to Jim because he looked very silly, stupid, disgraceful. Announcing foolish, organd he was acting childish and Black were not like that.