## Some History of Rosenwald Schools

The Rosenwald schools were **founded** by Julius Rosenwald about one hundred years ago. He was inspired by an important thinker named Booker T. Washington. Mr. Washington believed that all children, especially Black children, deserved a good education.

At this time, schools were **segregated**. White children went to schools with other white children. Black children and other children of color were not allowed to attend those schools.

Segregation was one of many **racist** laws at this time. Racist laws made sure that people, especially Blacks and people of color, were mistreated due to their race. Because of segregation, many Black children learned in places that were not schools—churches, homes, and other buildings.

Mr. Rosenwald wanted to change this. He **donated** a lot of money to build better schools for Black children in the **rural** south of the United States. The Black community where a school was built also had to raise money and gather materials to set up the schools. The white community needed to help, too, by contributing money and keeping

up the schools. More than five thousand schools were built, and they offered a good education to children who didn't have that opportunity before. Black communities were proud of these schools. Some of the schools are still standing today.

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## Glossary

**founded**: started

**segregate**: to set or keep apart from others

**racist**: when actions, words, or ideas are based on the belief that one racial group is superior to, or better than, others

**donate**: to give

**rural**: having to do with the countryside