

EXT. THE DRIVING QUESTION ON A ROAD SIGN - DAY

We focus on the driving question.

NARRATOR

NARRATOR (V.O)

Hi, my name is Indy and I'm traveling across the USA through 4 of the southern states. We started in Austin Texas, then travelled into Oklahoma, after that we went to Arkansas, and we finished off the journey in Springfield Missouri.

NARRATOR

I'm gathering evidence and understanding of how stories of hope, resilience, survival and adversity in the south of the United States can contribute to my previous statement.

NARRATOR (V.O)

But first, there are a couple of questions we need to answer before we can understand the objective and the results of this investigation into hope.

ZOOM OUT TO:

EXT. MAP OF USA - DAY

A line is drawn from the Texas to Oklahoma.

NARRATOR

To start off, we need to ask, what is hope?

On the map, 3 dots appear with 3 examples of stories of hope; JFK, Tulsa race massacre, and the Oklahoma City bombing. We whiz through some footage of the locations and historical images.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Hope is defined as a desire for a certain thing to happen, or a feeling of trust. In many ways we can see that Hope appears all throughout history and through our everyday lives as well.

Images get clearer and slower.

NARRATOR (V.O)

And how do resilience survival and adversity contribute to that idea of hope?

Resilience, survival and adversity are what make a story one of hope, because hope is born out of those extreme circumstances and various series of unfortunate events.

Now we need to ask, what historical examples from the 4 states I'm visiting, 1234, can be used to reinforce this idea of community, change and a new perspective on the future, sprouting from the seeds of hope in adversity ridden stories.

Zoom out to 3 images with titles for what events we're covering (Oklahoma city bombing (waco siege), jfk, Tulsa race massacre)

NARRATOR

Let's start at the beginning of this journey, in the lone star state, aka Texas

We go backwards into the first dot, zooming in to the beginning of the map, in Texas.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GRASSY KNOLL - DAY

NARRATOR

This is the grassy knoll in Dallas Texas, where on November 22nd of 1963, the president at the time JFK was assassinated. His shooter was Lee Harvey Oswald, standing in a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository. He was traveling through Dallas on a motorcade, like a sort of parade, to gain support from Texans and the south. This assassination is a topic of major discourse, as there are many theories and conspiracies on what really happened that day, more specifically why it happened and who was behind it.

Footage of assassination

This assassination is famously on film, which is a crucial piece of evidence towards all theories and ideas. The FBI approved theory is that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, and fired 3 shots. One that hit JFK through the head, and one that hit the man in front of him, Governor Connally. The discourse comes in through the improbability of the second bullet. It would've had to go through JFK's head, and then down through Governor Connally's wrist, landing in his knee, where it was found later on.

Video of knoll, also the parking lot where the theoretical second shooter would be.

Because of this, people theorize that there was a second shooter, typically theorized to be over in the corner of the book depository parking lot. His death has ultimately lead to a new community being built, talking about the possibilities and the various ideas about what actually happened that day. Even here, exactly 60 years later, there are still people talking about him, his legacy, and most of all, what happened to him on the November day, in 1963.

Images of jfk (ken burns?)

NARRATOR

JFK was a symbol for a new future even before his tragic death. His image was of a young bright president, one who could bring incredible change to many, including black people, people under the poverty line, and everyone in between. He had many things in the making that didn't happen during his lifetime, however...

Images of LBJ across the screen...

NARRATOR

President Lyndon Banes Johnson was the vice president at the time of JFK's untimely demise, and because of this, JFK's legacy is far bigger than he ever would've imagined. LBJ passed many acts and bills as part of his vision for a great society, including the civil rights act of 1964, which was a huge step in the fight against racism in America, and a act that was also originally proposed by JFK. As president, LBJ built JFK's legacy, and much more for himself too, becoming, in my opinion, one of the greatest us presidents in history.

We move back to JFK's legacy and the hope he left behind.

NARRATOR

Jfk being assassinated hurt the nation in more ways than one, but despite that his actions continue to carry forward today, and his death continues to be a topic of conversation even today, leaving him and his memory relevant even after all this time.

Fade to video of me talking about my personal connection

NARRATOR

As a sciencey person, who also loves true crime, I've had a certain personal connection with the story of JFK, especially with the physics of the "magic bullet" and the mystery surrounding the entire case, there's a link in the description if you want to dive a bit deeper into the jfk assassination and all its quirks. Now, back to the stories of Hope...

TRANSITION VIA
MAP AND ROAD
FOOTAGE

EXT. ALFRED MURRAH BUILDING - DAY

Shot of the memorial present day and past, integrated with some found footage of the event.

NARRATOR

On April 19th of 1995 at 2 minutes past 9am, a Ryder truck parked next to a federal building called the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City blew up, destroying the building and killing 168 people. The truck contained a bomb, set off by Timothy McVeigh, a right wing extremist, and anti government fundamentalist. McVeigh was found shortly after the bombing, in jail, for a petty driving charge, making his capture and arrest for this tragedy, fairly simple. After he was put on trial, McVeigh was sentenced to death and executed via lethal injection. But this story is not really about him. It's about the people of Oklahoma City.

Video of fence with memorialized objects for the survivors, families and victims of the bombing.

NARRATOR

Immediately after the attack, Oklahoma City rallied. People from all over the city came to the site of the bombing to offer support and to pitch in in whatever way they could. The real story of Hope isn't about a building was blown up, or an extremist who was angry with the government, it's about the community that came together to support their people, after a tragic attack. These people had the courage and the willingness to help the first responders, the affected and everyone in between, even though some of them might not have even had a personal connection. The site actually had too many helpers and had to start turning people away. That's how many community members were willing to put in an effort.

Image of field (branch davidians) comes into focus.

NARRATOR

When you have a mix of community and anger, it can go two ways. Either you get what we got in this situation, a drive to help and rebuild what you have lost. On the flip side, you can get a messy situation of violence, paranoia and the destruction of mutual well-being.

The branch Davidian gate zooms out.

NARRATOR

Timothy mcveigh was interviewed many times before his execution, which means we got an answer to why he did what he did to Oklahoma City. On April 19th, 1993, the fbi raided a religious compound in Waco, the branch Dravidian compound, in an act that would become known as the Waco siege. To understand why this event inspired Timothy mcviegh, and how it contributes to our understanding, we first need some background on the Waco siege.

Video of branch davidian compound..

NARRATOR

The run down of the siege, and the groups involved is that the leader of a compound, David kouresh, claimed to be Jesus reincarnate, and collected a group of followers that worshiped him and believe in him. These followers were known as the branch Davidians. In 1993, the fbi got word that kouresh was stockpiling weapons, and decided to investigate, which ended up turning into a siege on April 19th, when the fbi raided and shots were fired. Many people died that day, and for the next 52 days the siege went on in a standoff. Many right wing activists and supports, including mcveigh, came to the compound to support from afar, selling stickers and protesting for the "don't tread in me movement".

Interview with Oklahoma City memorial worker about community Hope, and hope itself.

NARRATOR

The future is bright, especially in Oklahoma City. Every year, thousands of people participate in the Oklahoma City memorial marathon that has the tagline: run to remember. This marathon represents running towards the future, but also remembering the past and using that as a drive. As someone who has done a marathon and knows what they mean to the individuals, this is a very important, valuable and representative piece of the reason that Oklahoma City was able to survive this attack and come out the other side as strong as ever.

TRANSITION VIA
MENU SCREEN AND
ROAD FOOTAGE

EXT. BLACK WALL STREET - DAY

As we're looking around the area, we give background on black Wall Street pre riot.

NARRATOR

The final example is Greenwood, a black community that was thriving in the 1920s to the dismay of white people, until they burnt it down in an event known as the black Wall Street riot.

Video of all the businesses and such in the community at the time.

NARRATOR

The community was described as a tight one, despite having a large area, one of those communities where everyone knows everyone, from the store clerks to the upper businessmen.

Then, we get into the riot and the details of the tragedy.

NARRATOR

The plaques you're seeing now are of just a few of the businesses that were burnt down in the riot on June 1st 1921. Two days before the riot, two teenagers in a relationship, one black one white, had a conversation in an elevator, one that left sarah, the white girl, in tears, stirring a pot and causing the arrest of the black kid. As the greenwood community heard about his arrest, knowing he was an innocent and good kid, they went to the jail. Lots happened after that but the main point is that this is where the riot started, white people were deputised and given guns, and around 300 people died. This doesn't sound like a story of Hope, with hundreds of business gone and people with them.

Pause button freeze frame, footage of blm movement

NARRATOR

Before we talk about Greenwood today, and how it survived the attack, we should, talk about the black community today. Everything in this video links to hope, community, and arguably most importantly, the future. Undeniably, life for black people in America has improved since 1921, but not enough. As we connect this event to the others, to the present, and to ourselves, we can look at it through the lens of people who still see this type of thing everyday in the internet and with the protest and the Black Lives Matter movement. Every event like the black Wall Street massacre is a piece of the movement, that is hopefully travelling towards the future, even if slowly.

Unpause video

Interview with tour guide

NARRATOR

Greenwood suffered a loss like no other, but they rebuilt, and today, Greenwood is once again a prosperous and successful community, with plenty to offer. The adversity that they faced is tragic, but through that experience their resilience and hope for the future broke through the wall of racism and rubble that their community became.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACK SCREEN WITH DRIVING QUESTION

Driving question is typed on screen

NARRATOR

So, what lessons and inspiration can we draw from the stories of individuals and communities that have faced tragedy and adversity? We can learn that there are small adversities in everyday life, and that with hope and survival we can live for the future. We can be inspired to be resilient as well, with the knowledge that the people in these stories survived, and so can us all.