

By 1939 it had been 50 years since the Civil War, the emancipation of slaves, and Reconstruction. Still the Mississippi Delta was a regions whose social and economic situations had changed very little: the mansions, manners, and affluence of the white plantation class existed alongside the deprivation, poverty, and powerlessness of the Negro majority. The successful white landowner dedicated himself to the pursuit of the good life: hunting trips, riverboat excursions, and travel abroad. Negroes, on the other hand, led lives filled with manual labor (when there was work at all), poor educational opportunities, and very little chance to improve their situations.

These contrasting lifestyles were apparent far and wide in the Delta.

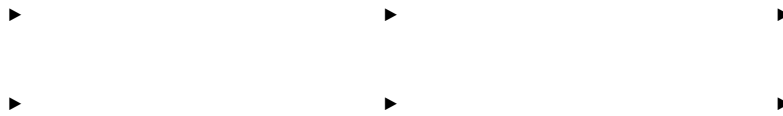
Look at the top photo

What are these men doing?

Where are they?

In a word, how would you describe the mood/attitude of this activity?

From their dress, what do you think each of these men do for a living?



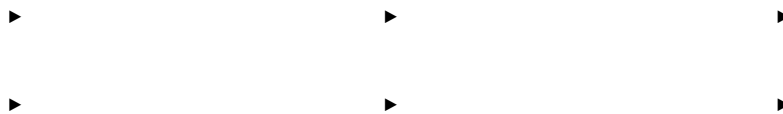
Look at the bottom photo

What are these men doing?

Where are they?

In a word, how would you describe the mood/attitude of this activity?

From their dress, what do you think each of these men do for a living?



What do you think?

Would any of the men from the top photo be welcome in the bottom photo? Why/why not?

Would any of the men from the bottom photo be welcome in the top photo? Why/why not?

What activity might all these men do together?

Photo sources

Negroes shooting craps behind tenant house, disposing of their cotton money on Saturday afternoon, Marcella Plantation, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi.

From *America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945*

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?fsaall:121:./temp/~ammem_qK8u::@@@mdb=mcc,gottscho,detr,nfor,wpa,aap,cwar,bbpix,cowellbib,calbkbib,consrvbib,bdsbib,dag,fsaall,gmd,pan,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,horyd,wtc,toddbib,mgw,ncr,ngp,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rbpebib,lbcoll,alad,hh,aaodysey,magbell,bbcads,dcm,raelbib,runyon,dukesm,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,qlt,coolbib,fpnas,aasm,denn,relpet,aass,aaeo,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnyebib,klpmap,hawp,omhbib,rbaapcbib,mal,ncpsbib,ncpm,lhbprbib,ftvbib,afcreed,aipn,cwband,flwpabib,wpapos,cmns,psbib,pin,coplandbib,cola,tccc,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,aaa,haybib,mesnbib,fine,cwnyhs,svybib,mmorse,afcwwgbib,mymhiwebib,uncall,afcwip,mtaft,manz,llstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cdn,upboverbib,musm,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,wright,lhbtbib,afcesnbib,hurstonbib,mreynoldsbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib

Playing dominoes or cards in front of drug store in center of town, in Mississippi Delta, Mississippi.

From *America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945*

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?fsaall:111:./temp/~ammem_K1GV::@@@mdb=mcc,gottscho,detr,nfor,wpa,aap,cwar,bbpix,cowellbib,calbkbib,consrvbib,bdsbib,dag,fsaall,gmd,pan,vv,presp,varstg,suffrg,nawbib,horyd,wtc,toddbib,mgw,ncr,ngp,musdibib,hlaw,papr,lhbumbib,rbpebib,lbcoll,alad,hh,aaodysey,magbell,bbcads,dcm,raelbib,runyon,dukesm,lomaxbib,mtj,gottlieb,aep,qlt,coolbib,fpnas,aasm,denn,relpet,aass,aaeo,mff,afc911bib,mjm,mnwp,rbcmillerbib,molden,ww2map,mfdipbib,afcnyebib,klpmap,hawp,omhbib,rbaapcbib,mal,ncpsbib,ncpm,lhbprbib,ftvbib,afcreed,aipn,cwband,flwpabib,wpapos,cmns,psbib,pin,coplandbib,cola,tccc,curt,mharendt,lhbcbbib,aaa,haybib,mesnbib,fine,cwnyhs,svybib,mmorse,afcwwgbib,mymhiwebib,uncall,afcwip,mtaft,manz,llstbib,fawbib,berl,fmuever,cdn,upboverbib,musm,cic,afcppearl,awh,awhbib,sgp,wright,lhbtbib,afcesnbib,hurstonbib,mreynoldsbib,spaldingbib,sgproto,scsmbib