

« She lived from nigger to colored to negro to black

To afro then african-american and right back to nigger »

Talib Kweli, « For Women »

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qkitK3O15Q>

The term “Nigger” is a derogatory term used against Black people. The word was originated from the Spanish word “Niger” and “Negro” meaning Black, which was used to describe Black people. The meaning of the word “Nigger” is -an ignorant person. By the late 1800’s, particularly during the Atlantic slave trade, the word was used in a derogatory manner, and often used as a racial slur against Black people. The word “Nigger” has often been used as an insult against people of African descent. The word is extremely offensive and often not mentioned unless one is intended to insult another.

In the song ‘*Woman*’, rapped by Talib Kweli, he states “she went from being called Nigger to Negro to colored to Black to Afro, to African American and right back to Nigga”. His statement shows the racism behind the word “Nigger” and how people of African descent fought to be labeled respectfully, to reflect the beauty of their race, yet ended up going back to the original roots of being called “Nigger”, yet justifying that “Nigga” has an entirely different meaning. “Nigga” used as a form of slang is one of the most popular words used today. The term is used in today’s slang, among African American groups predominately and hip hop musicians. This outrage of the word being used by African Americans was done so to desensitize the derogatory message behind the word. The term has become so popular that it is now a part of culture and many other groups, considerably; non-African American people are now using the word as well.

Once riding in old Baltimore,
Heart-filled, head-filled with glee,
I saw a Baltimorean
Keep looking straight at me.

Now I was eight and very small,
And he was no whit bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, “Nigger.”

I saw the whole of Baltimore
From May until December;
Of all the things that happened there
That’s all that I remember.

—Countee Cullen, “Incident” (1925)