
Dictionary of American Regional English

Volume III I-O

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The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England
1996

I-O

nic-nac, nicnacry See **knickknack** n¹

nicolet See **nicklette**

nicor tree See **nicker tree**

nics cum arous See **nix 2**

niece n [Cf *OED* *niece* 3 → a1592; "Obs. rare."] **Sth, S Midl**
Cf **nephew**

A nephew.

1671 in 1965 *AmSp* 40.236 VA, My loving neece, Charles Williams, son to my well-loved brother. 1950 *PADS* 14.48 SC, *Niece*. . . A niece or a nephew. Coastal Negro usage. c1960 *Wilson Coll.* csKY, *Niece*. . . Referring to either male or female; nephew used in the same way. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, neMS, *Niece*—used by Blacks to mean . . . nephew. 1995 *DARE* File, "Niece" in Gullah is unmarked for sex (I [=a man] was referred to by a speaker in Colleton County, South Carolina, as my uncle's "niece").

niegor See **nigger** n¹

nievitas n Also *nievita* [See quot 1934] **Pacific**

Usu =**forget-me-not** 1f, but also a **popcorn flower** (here: *Plagiobothrys nothofolius*).

1897 Parsons *Wild Flowers* CA 30, *Pop-corn Flower. White Forget-me-not*. . . Though not showy, taken singly, they often cover the fields, presenting the appearance of a light snowfall, from which fact the Spanish-Californians have bestowed the pretty name, "nievitas," the diminutive of *nieve*, snow. 1901 Jepson *Flora* CA 444, *Cryptanthe*. . . *Nievitas*. 1915 (1926) Armstrong-Thorner *Western Wild Flowers* 428, *Nievitas*—*Cryptanthe intermedia*. . . A rather attractive little plant, but inconspicuous except when it grows in patches, when it powders the fields with white, like a light fall of snow. 1934 Haskin *Wild Flowers Pacific Coast* 297, *Nievitas*—*Cryptanthe ambigua*. . . The name "nievita," from *nieve*—snow—is of Spanish-Californian origin, and refers to this sprinkling of the fields with flowery snow. 1961 Thomas *Flora Santa Cruz* 290 cwCA, *Cryptantha*. . . *Nievitas*, White Forget-Me-Not. 1968 *DARE* (Qu. S26e, *Other wildflowers not yet mentioned*; not asked in early QRs) Inf CA60, *Wild forget-me-not*—*nievitas*—means "little snow"—they are white here.

niff n [*EDD* *niff* sb.¹ 1 "A quarrel; a silent, sullen feeling of resentment"]
See quotes.

1914 *DN* 4.77 ME, nNH, *Niff*. . . A quarrel, grudge, or spite; also, dislike. 1953 *PADS* 19.12 cwNC, *Niff tree*. . . An imaginary tree up which one retreats when offended, i.e., a "niff" tree. "She did not like what I said, so she flew up the niff tree."

niff-naff n [Cf Scots, nEngl dial *niff-naff* a trifling or unimportant thing] Cf **nuff-nuff**, *DS* E20

1950 *WELS Suppl.* eKS, *Niff-naff*. . . Dust under a bed.

nig n [Abbr for **nigger** n¹ B1 or *nigra*, *nigro*]

1 A Black person. chiefly S Atl, Gulf States

c1832 T.D. Rice *Jim Crow* x (*OEDS*), De Nigs in ole Virginny Be so black dey shine. 1865 in 1983 *PADS* 70.44 ce,sePA, I pity Sallie Cad's little Nigs; send them every stitch of clothing, overcoats, undercoats, pants, etc you can. 1872 in 1927 Jones *FL Plantation Rec.* 198, Perhaps it would pay to get some common whiskey for the nigs. c1885 in 1981 Woodward *Mary Chesnut's Civil War* 828 SC (as of 1865), 'Respect the marriage tie.' Well, if he gets the nigs to do it, I hope he will proclaim awhile toward Utah. 1905 in 1913 Pringle *Woman Rice Planter* 160 ceSC, Her manner is what the "nigs" call "stiff." 1939 Griswold *Sea Is. Lady* 521 csSC (as of c1893), Well, wasn't nobody answerin' to that description got on [the train]. Only a couple of nigs, far as I know. 1941 *S. Rev.* 7.74 TN, The two nigs commenced to watch each other before their chickens had done scrapping. 1956 Ker *Vocab. W. TX* 376, *Negro*. . . nig. [1 of 67 infs] 1966–68 *DARE* (Qu. HH28, *Names and nicknames*. . . for people of foreign background: Black) Infs LA17, MS8, 15, Nig. c1970 Pederson *Dial. Surv. Rural GA* seGA (*What you [=a Black person] would not like to be called*) 1 inf, Nig. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance* (Black) 1 inf, cMS, Nig—derogatory, used by children; 1 inf, nwLA, Nig. 1992 Hunter-Gault *In My Place* 242 GA, Dean Tate's message, which took several hours to deliver, was this: He was as sympathetic to the plight and aspirations of Black folks as anybody in the world ("I was asked one time to speak at a nig' funeral," Walter told me he said. "You know, they don't ask just any white man to speak at a nig' funeral").

nigger n¹ Usū ['nɪgə(r)]; infreq ['negə] Also sp *negger*, *niggar*, *niggur*; arch spp *nager*, *ne(a)ger*, *neeger*, *negar*, *negur*, *niegor*, *niger* Pronc-spp *nigga(h)*, *nigguh* [*nigger* < earlier *neger* < Fr *négre* < Span, Port *negro*; *OED* *neger* "Now north. dial. and Sc." 1587 →; *nigger* 1786 →]

A. Forms.

1619 in 1624 Smith *Genl. Hist. VA* 126, About the last of August came in a dutch man of warre that sold vs twenty Negars. 1676 (1872) Williams *George Fox* 5.425, The Blackness of the Neger comes not by Accident. 1700 [see B1c below]. 1701 (1879) S. Sewall *Diary* 2.43 MA, Mr. Cotton Mather . . . talked very sharply against me as if I had used his father worse than a Neger. 1766 in 1894 *Harper's New Mth. Mag.* 88.535 CT, I, Governor Cuff of the Negro's in the province of Connecticut, do resign my Governmentship to John Anderson Niegor man to Governor Skene. 1796 Barton *Disappointment* 34, You may tawk an tawk till you're as black as a nager. 1803 Davis *Travels* 383, I . . . worked like a new negur. 1818 [see B1a below]. 1818 Fessenden *Ladies Monitor* 172 NEng, [In a list of words and phrases to be avoided:] *Neeger* for negro. 1843 (1916) Hall *New Purchase* 53 IN, Right hard to get gals here mam—folks has to be their own niggers. 1885 *Harper's New Mth. Mag.* 71.774 CT (as of 1644), She had abused the "neager" Anthony, and the other servants. 1894 Riley *Armazindy* 52 IN, Niggaah in de roas'in'-years. 1922 Gonzales *Black Border* 273 sSC, GA coasts [Gullah], I 'spec' you wouldn' uh fine yo' ole niggguh yuh [=here] today. a1930 [see B1d below]. 1967–68 *DARE* (Qu. FF5b, *More recent dance steps*) Inf MN15, *Nigga* dances; (Qu. HH28, *Names and nicknames*. . . for people of foreign background: Black) Inf GA23, *Nigger*—neger ['negə]—old-fashioned; HI6, *Nigga*. 1970 Tarpley *Blinky* 260 neTX, *Your everyday word for black people*. . . 54.5% [of 200 infs] *nigger*. . . 2.5% *negger*. 1994 [see B1d below].

B Senses.

1 A Black person, spec: see below. Note: The tone of the speaker or writer is not always possible to determine accurately; therefore, some of the quotes below may be more appropriate at a different subsense.

a Used in a depreciatory sense by White speakers.

1818 Fearon *Sketches* 46 NY, The bad conduct and inferior nature of *niggars* (negroes). 1819 in 1823 Faux *Memorable Days* 9, Contempt of the poor blacks, or niggers, as they are there called, seems the national sin of America. 1867 Latham *Black & White* 127, Niggers (they are not 'coloured persons' yet in the South) are most artful flatterers. 1885 Twain *Huck Finn* 280 MO, "Anybody hurt?" "No'm. Killed a nigger." "Well, it's lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt." 1897 *Outing* 29.333 FL, What is wanted is a genuine nigger—not a colored person, or an Afro-American, or a darkey—and one who has been there before. 1936 *AmSp* 11.11 eTX, The form universally used is *nigger*; pronounced ['nɪgə], ['nɪgə]. This pronunciation is maintained, I believe—though the reason is largely subconscious—because it expresses a racial and social distinction which ['ni:grə] would not. ['nɪgə] may be flavored with genuine affection, or with contempt. But whatever the undertones, it is a means of keeping the black man in his place. The old slave-holding tradition still speaks in the pronunciation. 1966 Dakin *Dial. Vocab. Ohio R. Valley* 2.446, The status of *nigger* is much clearer, but positive statements about the present extent of its actual use are still uncertain. . . *Nigger* is mentioned with equal frequency everywhere, and it is quite certain that it is commonly used in all parts of the Valley. . . Numerous comments indicate that most people recognize that *nigger* is resented and that they use it as a derogatory term. At the same time, however, it is quite evident that this has not always been true and that the status of this term has changed within the lifetime of many speakers. . . The abandonment of the term represents a change of attitude which has resulted in *nigger* becoming "not a nice word" which many are not now willing to use. For them *Negro* or *colored* (person) has taken its place. Some older informants . . . still use *nigger* in this neutral way. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance Gulf Region*, [Of 281 infs who characterized *nigger* (and such phrases as *old nigger woman*, *nigger kids*, etc) as derogatory, insulting, abusive, offensive and the like, 72 were Black; of the 196 infs who characterized the same word and phrases as neutral or jocular, 24 were Black.]

b Used in a depreciatory sense by Black speakers.

1834 Lieber *Letters* 90 sePA, A negro boy under my window calls a lad of the same race, by way of reproach, "nigger." 1866 *Atlantic Mth. July* 79 MD, When they [=Black people] call each other "nigger," the familiar term of opprobrium is applied with all the malice of a sting. [1927 Kennedy *Gritny* 29 sLA [Black], For a young ooman w'at bin well-raise'. you sho kin make a whole lot o' nigger noise.] 1949 Botkin

Treas. S. Folkd. xxiii, In turning his laughter on himself as well as the whites, the Negro has taken over the objectionable word "nigger" (though not "darky") and made it a term of praise or blame, depending on the context. 1971 *Black World* Apr 56 Philadelphia PA, Who the hell you think, nigger? 1980 [see B1d below]. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, cWAL, Damn nigger—they'd say to each other; 1 inf, swAL, Black nigger—blacks say to each other in anger. [Both infs White] 1994 Smitherman *Black Talk* 167, "A group of Brothas was buggin out, drinkin the forty ounce, goin the nigga route," a clearly negative use of the word, meaning, Some Black males were . . . acting out the loud, vulgar stereotype of a *nigga*.

c Used in a relatively neutral or affectionate sense by White speakers.

1676 [see A above]. 1700 in 1879 MA Hist. Soc. *Coll.* 5th ser 6.19, [Footnote:] 'Tis to be feared, we have no other kind of Title to our Niggers. 1901 Harben *Westerfelt* 7 nGA, Mis' Simpkins was at Lithicum's when a nigger fetched the note. 1904 DN 2.419 nWAR, Nigger. . . Negro. The universal word in Arkansas, whether respect is intended or not. "I got a nigger to beat my carpets." 1933 Rawlings *South Moon* 61 nFL, The boy frowned blackly. "That ain't no tale. Tell me about niggers." The subject fascinated the child, for there was only one negro in the scrub, an ex-slave to whom his master had given land in Florida. The negro kept to himself in an old house. "Niggers," Lantry said, "is borned male and female, like squirrels and dogs and white folks. Niggers is all shade o' black and brown and yellor." 1936 [see B1a above]. 1958 Humphrey *Home from the Hill* 7 neTX, Now tell us, ma'am, where we might find a couple of niggers that'd like to make a dollar. c1960 Wilson *Coll.* csKY, Negro is [nigga] to most people, with no especially bad connotation. 1962 Atwood *Vocab. TX* 73, Negro . . . is felt by most to be polite rather than neutral. Nigger . . . is sometimes said to be neutral, but more often to be derogatory. 1966 [see B1a above]. 1966 DARE Tape AL3, He hired a nigger-preacher—something that you wouldn't think back then, but he was a jam-up good preacher—he was hard of hearing—he was very deaf, and he was kind of an old nigger, but he was a jam-up good carpenter, and he contracted to build that house for my daddy. 1967 Fetterman *Stinking Creek* 75 seKY, The Browns never had slaves. That was a hateful thing to own a nigger just like he was livestock. 1970 Tarpley *Blinky* 261 neTX, For more than half of the informants, the everyday word for a black person is *nigger*. . . Nigger is used most often by men, in non-city communities, and by a slightly higher percentage of members of the lowest educational division. . . Several informants say emphatically, "I call them *niggers*, 'cause that's what they really are." *Ibid* 263, Two non-rural informants in the two lowest educational groups say that *nigger* is the only word they ever use. 1981 Palmer *Deep Blues* 55 MS, Now in many cases, a nigger—and I don't mean anything by that, it's just what they called themselves—had his own eighty acres or hundred and twenty acres. 1986 [see B1a above].

d Used in a neutral or favorable sense by Black speakers.

1885 Twain *Huck. Finn* 72 MO [Black], Dey wuz a nigger name' Bob, dat had ketched a wood-flat. 1899 Chesnutt *Conjure Woman* 12 csNC [Black], Ef you . . . doan' min' lis'nin' ter a ole nigger run on a minute er two. a1930 in 1991 Hughes-Hurstun *Mule Bone* 32 cFL [Black], "See what you Meth'dis' niggahs will do?" asked Brazzle, a true Baptist. c1937 in 1970 Yetman *Voices* 257 GA [Black], A nigger by name o' Enoch Golden married us. He was what we called a "double-headed nigger"—he could read and write, and he knowed so much. On his dyin' bed he said he been de death o' many a nigger 'cause he taught so many to read and write. 1939 in 1944 *AmSp* 19.166, It [=nigger] is a common expression among the ordinary Negroes and is frequently used in conversation between them. It carries no odium or sting when used by themselves, but they object keenly to whites using it because it conveys the spirit of hate, discrimination and prejudice. 1949 [see B1b above]. 1959 Lomax *Rainbow Sign* 76 AL [Black], The New World was where all the Negroes hang out—stores and cafés, you know, and barbershops, run by Negroes. They just call it a real *nigger* street. 1963 Wright *Lawd Today* 120 Chicago IL [Black], It was all right for one Negro to call another Negro "nigger"; but when in front of white folks one ought to be careful. *And that word ain't the same when a white man uses it. There's something he puts in it that ain't right.* 1970 Major *Dict. Afro-Amer. Slang* 85, Nigger . . . used by black people among themselves, it is a racial term with undertones of warmth and good will—reflecting, aside from the irony, a tragicomic sensibility that is aware of black history. 1970 DARE (Qu. Z12, *Nicknames and joking words meaning 'a small child': "He's a healthy little _____."*) Inf TN46, Nigger; (Qu. AA3, *Nicknames or affectionate names for a sweetheart*) Inf TN46, My nigger; (Qu. AA15c, . . . *Joking ways . . . of saying that a woman is getting married . . . "She _____."*) Inf TN46, Got that nigger; (Qu.

AA23, *Joking names that a woman may use to refer to her husband: "It's time to go and get supper for my _____."*) Inf TN46, Nigger; (Qu. II1, . . . *A close friend . . . "He's my _____."*) Inf NY239, Nigger; (Qu. II10b, *Asking directions of somebody on the street when you don't know his name—what you'd say to a man: "Say, _____, how far is it to the next town?"*) Inf FL48, Nigger. 1971 Mitchell *Blow My Blues Away* 170 nwMS [Black], Mr. Walter [a white man] knocked that nigger just as flat, and that nigger knocked Mr. Walter just as flat. And they called it off right there. And that's the onliest fair fight I've seed. 1980 Folb *Runnin' Down* 37 Los Angeles CA [Black], "Nigger" can be a derogatory label, a neutral label, or a positive label—a term of endearment—when used by black people. Black comedian Dick Gregory once stated that he resented being called 'nigger' by whites because they 'didn't say it right.' What he meant is that the way whites used the word 'nigger' could not have a neutral or positive meaning as it can when blacks use it. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, nwAL, Nigger—they call themselves that; 1 inf, csAR, Nigger—what blacks call one another; 1 inf, cAR, Nigger—used among friends; 1 inf, seFL, Nigger—blacks call each other; 1 inf, seFL, Nigger—neutral; jocular; from black to black; 1 inf, nwLA, Nigger—blacks used in joking; 1 inf, cnMS, They called each other niggers; 1 inf, neMS, Nigger—not derogatory if used black to black; 1 inf, neMS, Nigger—blacks use it in joking; 1 inf, seMS, Move out of the way nigger—parent to a child; 1 inf, cnTN, Nigger—Blacks don't say except joking; 1 inf, swTN, Nigger—derogatory or joking to each other; 1 inf, cTX, Nigger—among friends; said of himself; 1 inf, csTX, Nigger—insult; not when blacks use; a password; 1 inf, cTX, Nigger—use as a password among themselves; 1 inf, cTX, Nigger—older blacks call each other. [13 of 16 infs Black] *Ibid* [see B1a above]. 1987 Rose *I Remember Jazz* 104 [Black], "You see that car, Honey?" she asked. "That niggah just gave me that car. . . That niggah gave me all those things. Now, tonight, after the show is over, where do you think that niggah's goin'? He's comin' right back here where he goes every night and," indicating the bedroom with her thumb, "gets into bed next to this niggah," indicating herself. 1994 Smitherman *Black Talk* 167, *Nigga*—Used with a variety of meanings, ranging from positive to negative to neutral. . . "She my main nigga," that is, She is my close friend. . . "That party was live; it was wall-to-wall niggas there," a generic, neutral use of the word, meaning simply that many African Americans were present.

e Used with a given name as an identifier; see quotes.

1965 Durham-Jones *Negro Cowboys* 109, The most successful cowboys were those who stuck to the cattle business, staying out of saloon brawls and range wars. One of these was "Nigger Frank," who spent a lifetime wrangling horses for John Chisum. 1967 Fetterman *Stinking Creek* 75 seKY, They was slaves in Knox county. I knowed one—went by the name of Nigger Ned. 1973 McCarthy *Child of God* 53 TN, After a day or two Ballard fell into talking with him. He said: What's your name? John, said the nigger. Nigger John. 1993 DARE File swID, seOR (as of 1930s), I've heard livestock men speak in admiration of a black cowboy and noted rider in the Jordan Valley country simply as "Nigger Bill." Around New Plymouth there was another respected rider . . . called "Nigger Abe." And there was a black settler in the hills . . . who raised and sold good horses. He was simply "Nigger Ned." All of this is hard to accommodate, so sensitive have we become to the negative aspects of such language.

2 Transf:

a Used of any other non-White person, esp an American Indian.

1843 (1846) Haliburton *Attache* (1st ser) 180 NEng, "Well, what's to prevent your boys gettin' those prizes, if colonists was made Christians of, instead of outlawed . . . heathen Indgean niggers, as they be." 1848 (1855) Ruxton *Life Far West* 15 Rocky Mts, He throwed a Pueblo as had on poor Bent's shirt. I guess he tickled that niggur's hump-ribs. 1881 Greene *Cape Cod Folks* 146 eMA, The Indians rather set themselves up above the benighted Wallencampers, . . . while they, in turn, made derisive allusions to the "Nigger-camp" minister. 1901 N. Amer. Rev. 172.174, Those 'niggers' [=Filipinos] spare their wounded, and the Americans massacre theirs! 1919 Kyne *Capt. Scrags* 119 CA, On the island o' Aranuka, right under the Hakatua volcano. There was some strappin' big buck native niggers there that would fetch \$300 a head.

b Used of any person perceived as uncouth, immoral, or threatening, regardless of skin color. esp freq among Black speakers; derog

1839 (1840) Simms *Border Beagles* 2.85 MS, They[=White officers of justice]re afraid of me [=a White man], the niggers. 1942 Hurston *Dust Tracks* 49 FL, "Don't be a nigger," he would say to me over and over. "Niggers lie and lie! . . . People with guts don't lie." [Footnote to

nigger:] The word Nigger used in this sense does not mean race. It means a weak, contemptible person of any race. 1971 Mitchell *Blow My Blues Away* 141 **nwMS** [Black]. Like a person say, "You're a nigger." That don't mean nothing. Anybody can be a nigger. A nigger is just a slander word. Anybody, it don't make no difference what nationality and color you is, any-body can be a nigger. We have a lot of Negroes and we have some niggers. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, **cnFL**, You don't have to be black to be a nigger; 1 inf, **nwFL**, Nigger = dirty; [a] low person of any race; pejorative; 1 inf, **cAL**, Nigger—a bad person; 1 inf, **cAL**, Nigger—can be of any race; 1 inf, **cAL**, Nigger—derogatory, but not racial; 1 inf, **cAL**, Color don't make a cracker, color don't make a nigger; 1 inf, **swGA**, Nigger—of a bad person, not necessarily a Negro; 1 inf, **swGA**, I don't care how white you is; I don't care how black you is or how yellow you is; any low-down, dirty person is a nigger; 1 inf, **cMS**, Nigger—of whites too; 1 inf, **cMS**, Nigger—any color; general pejorative; low-acting; 1 inf, **cMS**, Nigger—derogatory for anyone who is "low-down"; 1 inf, **cMS**, Nigger—of any race; silly, drunk conduct; 1 inf, **csMS**, Anybody can be a nigger; 1 inf, **swMS**, Them niggers—speaking of the "hillbillies"; 1 inf, **ceTX**, [I'm] scared of them niggers—of Mexicans; 1 inf, **ceTX**, Nigger—means a dirty person. [15 of 16 infs Black]

3 in combs *big* (or *head*, *lead*) *nigger*: An important, often self-important, person.

1942 Hurston *Dust Tracks* 224 **FL**, The humble Negro has a built-up antagonism to the "Big Nigger." . . He resents any lines between himself and the wealthy and educated of his own race. 1966–70 *DARE* (Qu. GG19b, *When you can see from the way a person acts that he's feeling important or independent: "He seems to think he's _____."*) Inf SC26, The big nigger; (Qu. HH17, *A person who tries to appear important, or who tries to lay down the law in his community: "He'd like to be the _____ around here."*) Infs MO29, OR1, TX37, 68, Head nigger; OH42, Lead nigger; (Qu. HH43b, *The assistant to the top person in charge of a group of workmen*) Inf NY241, Head nigger in charge. 1975 King *S. Ladies & Gentlemen* 155, Anyone who lived in the segregated South knows who Big Nigger was. He was usually a preacher—and usually light-skinned—to whom the white pillars of the town turned whenever there was trouble. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, **cAL**, The big nigger's car—the main man's car; 1 inf, **seAL**, That's Big Nigger's car—the patriarch.

4 attrib: Cheap; inferior; makeshift. Cf **Mexican B1**, *nigger* v, *nigger bath*, ~ *liquor*, ~ *pole*, ~ *rig*, ~ *runner*

1942 Berrey–Van den Bark *Amer. Slang* 784.6 [Railroad slang], *Tip*. . . *nigger tip*, any tip of an odd amount between fifteen and fifty cents. 1967 *DARE* (Qu. KK63, *To do a clumsy or hurried job of repairing something*) Inf LA14, Nigger work. 1967 *DARE* FW Addit LA14, *Nigger fixings*—careless or hasty work. Common. 1972 TN Folk Lore Soc. *Bulletin* 38.36, In some parts of the deep South, whites call some forbidden foods "nigger foods," meaning that these substances are fit only for blacks. 1988 *DARE* File TX (as of c1980), I heard the phrase "nigger brick" from a Houston heart surgeon who was showing me an old post office, the exterior of which was finished in tin painted to look like brick.

5 also *nig*: Used as a name for a black animal.

1858 (1966) Boller *MO Fur Trader* 161, It occurred to me that as the black ox was feeding near the "dead people" he might have gone down into the bottom—however I crept on, and getting nearer found that . . . it was Nigger! [1944 Adams *Western Words* 104, *Nigger horse*—One of black color.] 1967 Williams *Greenbones* 20 **GA** (as of c1910), [His mother slapped the black horse's neck. . . His father was running a hand down the red horse's neck.] *Ibid* 84, Nig and Apple cavorted as heavily as spring colts, throwing up their ragged old muzzles. 1968 *DARE* (Qu. K39, . . . *Names . . . for horses according to their colors*) Inf UT4, Black or nig; [AL38, *Niggernose*—black nose]. 1993 *DARE* File **swID**, **seOR**, In an earlier time it would appear that among many folk the word "nigger" meant only "black" I don't know how many horses I've driven and ridden that carried that word as a name simply because they were black. Often it was shortened to "Nig." It was also a popular name for dogs. 1994 *Ibid* **sNV**, When my grandfather and grandmother were building Boulder Dam . . . on the Colorado River, they had a camp mascot. It was a jet black dog . . . named "Nigger."

6 also *nigger engine*: A steam engine used to operate a capstan, esp on a riverboat. Cf **niggerhead** 9

1867 in 1932 *Frontier & Midland* 12.166, The boat . . . struck the bar, they then began to work with the spars and nigger, and at two o'clock we got off. 1872 (1876) Knight *Amer. Mech. Dict.* 2.1526, *Nigger*. (Steam-engine.) A steam-engine employed in hoisting; especially on

shipboard and on the Western and Southern rivers. 1878 Beadle *Western Wilds* 378, Then oaths, spars, "nigger-engine" and all the other available machinery were set in operation. 1882 *Harper's New Mth. Mag.* 64.175, One of the 'nigger' engines [on a steamboat] is suddenly called into service to tighten a two-inch rope, or wind up a discarded cable. 1901 in 1952 Bissell *Monongahela* 181, There will be on the boat eight nigger engines and two doctors and much other machinery. 1903 *DN* 2.322 **seMO**, *Nigger*. . . A steam capstan used on river boats. 1923 *DN* 5.244 **LA**, *Nigger*. . . In logging, the engine that runs the capstan. 7 In logging: a device for lifting, turning, and adjusting logs in a sawmill.

1890 *Century Dict.* 3990, *Nigger*. . . A strong iron-bound timber with sharp teeth or spikes protruding from its front face, forming part of the machinery of a sawmill, and used in canting logs. 1906 *DN* 3.148 **nWAR**, *Nigger*. . . A mechanical contrivance in sawmills for turning and adjusting logs that are being sawed. 1909 *DN* 3.375 **eAL**, **wGA**, *Steam-nigger*. . . A mechanical contrivance in saw-mills for adjusting logs that are being sawed. Also called simply *nigger*. 1941 *Writers' Program Guide* WI 351 **cWI**, A cradle-shaped "winch" releases the logs one at a time; two spiked arms called the "nigger" hoist them upon the carriage and roll them into the grip of the sharp-toothed, ratchet-operated iron jaws known as "dogs." 1950 *Western Folkl.* 9.122 **nWOR** [Sawmill workers' speech], *Nigger*. Machinery used to turn logs on a carriage. 1969 Sorden *Lumberjack Lingo* 122 **NEng**, **Gt Lakes**, *Steam nigger*—The mechanism in the sawmill operated by the head sawyer, that turned the log for sawing.

8 See quot.

1948 *PADS* 9.40 **OK**, *Nigger*. . . A detachable length of heavy pipe made and sold as part of a large wrench; used in order to give added length and leverage to the wrench, thus allowing one to exert more pressure on the grip of the wrench.

9 See quot. Cf **nigger** v 1

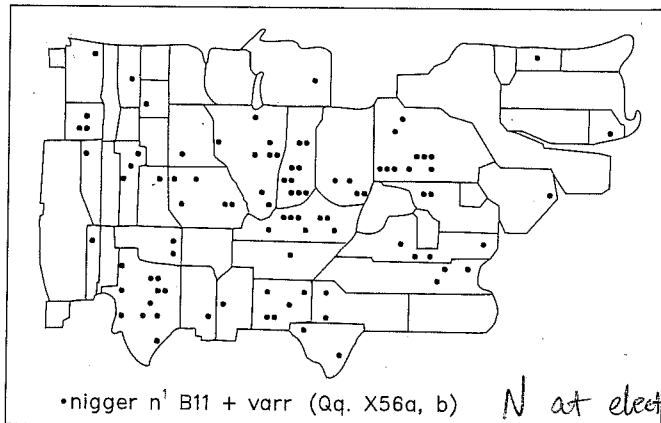
1909 *DN* 3.414 **nME**, *Nigger*. . . A blackened brand [*DARE* Ed: =burnt stick].

10 =cat and mouse 2.

1905 *DN* 3.88 **nWAR**, *Nigger*. . . Boys' name of a game, identical with 'cat and mouse.'

11 in phrr *sweat like a nigger* (at election) and varr: To sweat profusely. **scattered**, but chiefly **Midl**, **Gulf States**, **TX** See Map Cf *sweat like a mule* (at **mule** n¹ 6), *sweat like a pig* (at **pig**)

1906 *DN* 3.160 **nWAR**, *Sweat worse than a nigger at election*. . . To sweat copiously. 1939 *AmSp* 14.265 **IN**, Expressions relating to work are . . . 'sweating like a nigger at election.' 1946 *PADS* 6.42 **eNC** (as of 1900–10), *Sweating like a Nigger going to 'lection*. (To be tired, sweaty, and out of breath.) . . Occasional. 1952 Brown *NC Folkl.* 1.450, *Sweating like a Negro going to the 'lection*. . . Sweating like a nigger at election. 1954 *Harder Coll.* **cwTN**, *Sweat lak a nigger at a 'lection*. 1956 McAtee *Some Dialect NC* 44, *Sweating like a nigger going to election*. 1965–70 *DARE* (Qu. X56b, *Expressions about sweating very heavily*) 50 Infs, chiefly **Midl**, **Gulf States**, *Sweat* (or *sweating*) like a nigger; 19 Infs, esp **Midl**, **TX**, *Sweat* (or *sweating*, *sweats*) like a nigger at (e)lection; **KY8**, **NC9**, 22, **PA14**, 25, 175, 202, 205, 209, 214, *Sweat* (or *sweating*, *sweats*) like (a) nigger going to (e)lection; **MD21**, **NJ67**, **OK20**, **TX13**, *Sweat* (or *sweating*) like a nigger on election day; **IN9**, 45, **KY70**, *Sweat like a nigger at the election*; **MS16**, **MO3**, *Sweat* (or *sweating*) like a nigger to election; **IL96**, **TN42**, (*Sweat*) like a nigger



in church; AL43, Like a nigger; MO29, Sweat like a nigger at a county election; IL126, Sweating like a nigger at an election; AL22, Sweating like niggers going to 'lection; TN35, Sweating worse'n a nigger; FL22, Sweats like a nigger trying to tell the truth; (Qu. X56a) Inf TX95, Sweat like a nigger at election. 1967 DARE FW Addit cMO, Sweating like a nigger at an election; cnTX, Sweating like a nigger at an election—sweating very heavily. 1970 Tarpley *Blinky* 276 neTX, [He] sweated like a nigger preacher at election [1 of 200 infs]. 1986 Pederson LAGS Concordance, 1 inf, seGA, I sweat like [a] nigger at a county election; 1 inf, neAL, Sweating like a nigger.

12 See nigger duck 1.

nigger v

1 also with *off*: To divide (a log) into shorter lengths by burning it at the desired intervals; to divide a log in this way; hence vbl n *nigging* (*off*). esp NEast, N Cent

1833 Smith *Life Jack Downing* 22 ME, He laid sticks across the large logs . . . and *nigged* them off with fire. 1843 (1916) Hall *New Purchase* 204 IN, This is the *nigging*-off. . . A small space is hacked into the upper side of the trunk, and in that for awhile is maintained a fire fed with dry chips and brush; then at right angles, with the prostrate timber is laid in the fire a stick of some green wood, dry fuel being added at intervals, till the incumbent stick, sinking deeper and deeper into the burning spot, in no very long time . . . divides or *niggers* the trunk asunder. *Ibid* 207, Very soon then . . . were assembled about half a dozen men . . . some with remnants of burning *nigging* sticks. 1887 Kirkland *Zury* 538 IL, *Nigger*. . . To burn logs into lengths. 1888 (1900) Sears *Woodcraft* 49 Upstate NY, It was easier to lay them on the fire and "*nigger*" them in two than to cut them shorter with light hatchets. 1903 DN 2.322 seMO, *Nigger off*. . . To burn logs in two by building small fires on them. 1909 DN 3.414 nME, *Nigger*. . . To burn a log off by piling brands crosswise of it. 1912 DN 3.584 wIN, *Nigger (a log) off*. . . To put one log across another at right angles and burn them in two at the cross. After this is done, the four parts are easily rolled together and burned. 1925 *Old-Time New Engl.* 15.4.172 swPA, Until about 1890, [they] sometimes bi-sected freshly felled trees . . . by "*nigging*" them, as they called it; namely, by burning downward upon them, with fires carefully watched, spaced and restricted from spreading by mud and water.

2 also with *over*, *up*: To do, make, or repair (something) in a careless, haphazard, or tasteless manner; to mess (something) up. Cf *nigger rig*

1967 DARE (Qu. W29, . . . *Expressions . . . for things that are sewn carelessly . . . "They're _____."*) Inf TX35, *Nigged* up; (Qu. Y37, *To make a place untidy or disorderly: "I wish they wouldn't _____ the room so."*) Inf LA2, *Nigger* it up; (Qu. HH30) Inf SC26, Something that is gaudy or overdone may be occasionally said to be *nigged* up: "That was a nice car until he *nigged* it up"; (Qu. KK49, *When you don't have the time or ambition to do something thoroughly: "I'm not going to give the place a real cleaning, I'll just _____."*) Inf TX37, *Nigger* over it; (Qu. KK63, *To do a clumsy or hurried job of repairing something: "It will never last—he just _____."*) Inf TX11, *Nigged* it. 1986 Pederson LAGS Concordance, 1 inf, cwLA, Let's don't *nigger* it up—said to black workers.

3 also with *around*: To idle, laze around.

1966–68 DARE (Qu. A10, . . . *Doing little unimportant things: . . . "What are you doing?" . . . "Nothing in particular—I'm just _____."*) Inf MS16, *Nigging* around; (Qu. X43b, *If you sleep later than usual one day on purpose . . . "I _____."*) Inf PA142, *Nigged*.

nigger n², hence adv *niggerly* [Folk-etymys for *niggard*(ly); cf EDD *nigger* sb.¹]

1895 DN 1.398 cNY, *Nigger*: for *niggard*. 1909 DN 3.352 eAL, wGA, *Niggerly*. . . *Niggardly*. 1967 DARE (Qu. U36b, . . . *A person who saves in a mean way or is greedy in money matters: "She certainly is _____."*) Inf IA7, *Niggerly*. [1968 DARE FW Addit swGA, A middle-aged man (probably high school education or some high school) . . . defined this [=["nig-dlr]] as "cheap; tight; sorry." Says it comes from the word "*nigger*."]

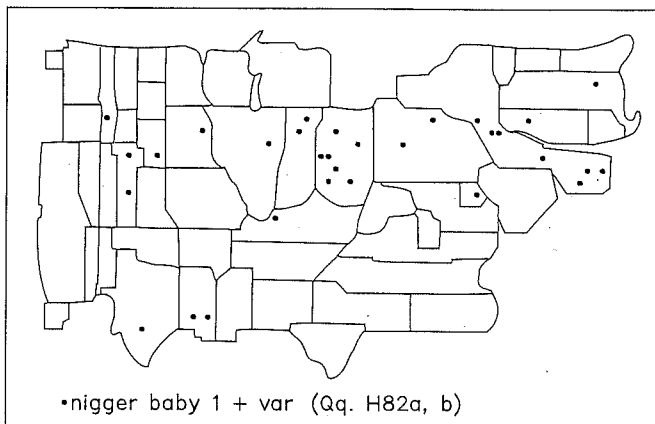
nigger around See *nigger* v 3

nigger baby n

1 A small, dark-colored candy in the shape of a baby. *scattered, but chiefly* N Midl, seNY See Map Also called *colored baby* Cf *niggerhead* 7

1940 Mencken *Happy Days* 208 Baltimore MD, He much preferred

the black licorice *nigger-babies* sold by Old Man Kunker in Baltimore street, and commonly went about with his face mired by their exudations. 1957 *Sat. Eve. Post Letters* NH (as of c1895), *Nigger babies*—licorice dolls about 3/4" long; NY (as of c1920), We call the tiny chocolate dolls "*Nigger Babies*." 1963 Burroughs *Head-First* 105 CO, Licorice "*nigger babies*" also were available (ten for a penny). 1965–70 DARE (Qu. H82b, *Kinds of cheap candy that used to be sold years ago*) 17 Infs, esp N Midl, seNY, *Nigger babies*; CO27, IA17, OH93, PA92, *Nigger babies*—licorice; KY79, *Nigger babies*—Licorice, one inch high, shaped like a baby; LA23, *Nigger babies*—licorice candy in oval shapes with cameo stamp; LA43, *Nigger babies*—shaped like a baby, made of licorice; DE2, *Nigger babies*—chocolate and shaped like little babies; NY34, *Nigger babies*—chocolate paste; NY53, *Nigger babies*—chocolate-covered baby faces; NY75, *Nigger babies*—these were chocolate; they used to have a penny in some of them; (Qu. H82a, *Cheap candies sold especially for schoolchildren*) Infs ID3, NY41, *Nigger babies*; NY48, *Nigger babies*—chocolates; CT5, Non-integrated *nigger babies*. 1975 King *S. Ladies & Gentlemen* 12, Inside the bin was a mountain of little licorice candies shaped like black children. Everyone privately called them "*nigger babies*."



2 Either of two children's games:

a A game played with a rubber ball and holes dug in the ground; a stick or stone used in the game. Cf *roly-poly*

1901 DN 2.144 FL, cNY, *Nigger-baby*. . . Same as *roly-poly* [=A game played with a rubber ball and small holes dug in the ground]. 1906 DN 3.148 nwAR, *Nigger-baby*. . . A ball game, usually played with a rubber ball. If a player fails to hit the ball when thrown to him he must put a stick (*nigger-baby*) into the hole, which he guards. 1957 *Sat. Eve. Post Letters* VA, *Nigger babies*—Each person had a hole in the ground. The person "*it*" would roll a ball and try to get it in one of the holes. The person owning the hole would run to it and take out the ball and try to hit someone with all others having run as far as they could until the person taking the ball from the hole called halt. When a person was hit with the ball a stone or '*nigger baby*' was placed in his hole. If the thrower missed he received a *nigger baby*. The one with the most *nigger babies* lost.

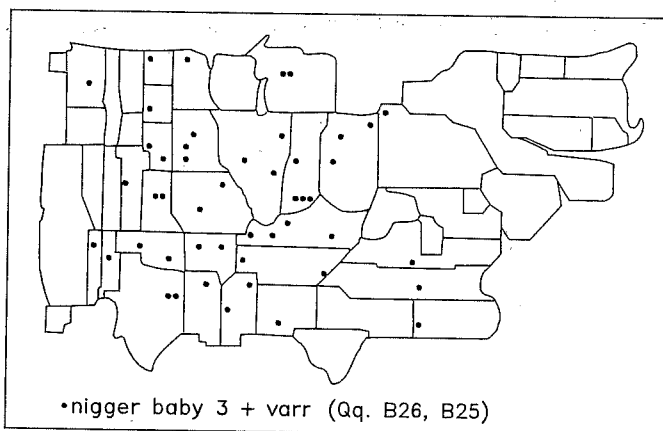
b also *nigger baby stop*: A children's game in which a player is hit with a rubber ball; a call in the game; see quotes. Cf *spud*

1957 *Sat. Eve. Post Letters* WA, "*Nigger baby*"—All participants used to lag at a target with marbles. The one farthest away had to stand facing a wall, bend over and present his posterior to one throw each, of a hard rubber ball, by each of the participants. 1968 DARE (Qu. EE33, . . . *Outdoor games . . . that children play*) Inf LA23, *Nigger baby* is called *spud* now. Everybody in a circle has a number; a ball is bounced and the one whose number is called catches it. If you miss three times in a row, they stand you against something and throw the ball at you; LA43, *Nigger baby*—take a ball; everybody has a number. You call a number and the person catches the ball. When somebody yells "*Nigger baby*," everybody stops and somebody gets hit with the ball. When one person is hit three times they stand him against the wall and everybody throws at him; PA76, *Nigger baby stop*—ball thrown in air, a number called. Player with that number must catch it. He then calls "*Nigger baby stop*" and the other players must stop. The one who caught the ball can take steps and throw the ball at the closest other player. If hit, one was retired from game. The last one left is winner; PA94, *Nigger baby*—ball thrown in air; a number called. Player with that number must catch it. He then

calls "Nigger baby stop" and the other players must stop. The one who caught the ball can take three steps and throw the ball at the closest other player. If hit, one was retired from game. The last one left is winner. **1968 DARE** Tape LA46, Nigger baby—it's played with a group of people. You assign a number to each person . . . and you call a number while the ball's in the air. Now if the person catches the ball before it hits the ground, they can throw the ball up and call another number. Once the ball hits the ground, the number called to the person who catches the ball, he hollers "nigger baby, stop!" and everybody has to stop.

3 in phr *rain nigger babies* and varr: To rain heavily. chiefly west of Appalachians See Map

1965-70 DARE (Qu. B26, *When it's raining very heavily . . . "It's raining . . ."*) 30 Infs, chiefly west of Appalachians, Pitchforks and (little) nigger babies; 11 Infs, scattered, but esp Sth, S Midl, (Down) nigger babies; NE7, PA131, WA12, Cats and dogs and (little) nigger babies; IL50, Cats, dogs, and nigger babies; MI98, Nigger babies and pitchforks; AZ1, VA18, Tomcats (or puppy dogs) and nigger babies; (Qu. B25, . . . *Joking names . . . for a very heavy rain. . . "It's . . ."*) Inf AR47, Raining pitchforks and nigger babies. **1986** Pederson *LAGS Concordance (Heavy rain)* 1 inf, cAL, Raining nigger babies; 2 infs, ceMS, ceTX, Raining pitchfork(s) and nigger babies.



4 pl: A blue-eyed grass 1 (here: *Sisyrinchium bellum*). [See quotes 1897, 1915]

1897 Parsons *Wild Flowers* CA 284, Blue-Eyed Grass . . . *Sisyrinchium bellum*. . . Owing to the quaint manner in which its petals kink up when they fade, these blossoms are called "nigger-babies" by the children. **1901** Jepson *Flora* CA 129, *[Sisyrinchium] bellum*. . . Blue-eyed Grass. *Nigger-babies*. . . Very common throughout California. Mar.-Apr. **1915** (1926) Armstrong-Thomber *Western Wild Flowers* 70, Blue-Eyed Grass—*Sisyrinchium bellum*. . . The anthers are arrow-shaped, the style short, with three very small stigmas, and the small, oddly-shaped, little capsule is dark-brown when ripe, and perhaps suggested one of the common names, Nigger-babies. **1961** Thomas *Flora Santa Cruz* 127 cwCA, *[Sisyrinchium] bellum*. . . Nigger Babies, California Blue-eyed Grass.

5 also pl: A sanicle (here: *Sanicula bipinnatifida*).

1898 Jrl. Amer. Folkl. 11.227 CA, *Sanicula bipinnatifida*. . . nigger babies. **1968 DARE** (Qu. S26e, *Other wildflowers not yet mentioned*; not asked in early QRs) Inf CA60, Nigger baby—desert—so purple it's almost black—same as purple sanicle.

6 A large channel catfish.

1948 Hanna—Hanna *Lake Okeechobee* 185, Millions of pounds of "nigger babies," as the channel cats of the Mississippi Valley and Gulf States are called, were shipped annually from Louisiana and other centers. *Ibid* 186, Large channel cat or "nigger babies," weighing from five to thirty pounds and rarely as much as forty and fifty pounds. **1966 DARE** (Qu. P1, . . . *Kinds of freshwater fish . . . caught around here . . . good to eat*) Inf FL27, Nigger baby—large catfish, 60 pounds. **1973 DARE** File cwFL, In Bartow . . . a very large catfish, one 40 pounds or over, is called a nigger baby.

nigger baby stop See **nigger baby 2b**

nigger ball n

c1970 Wiersma *Marbles Terms*, *Nigger balls*—black marbles.

nigger bass n

Perh a black bass 1.

1965 DARE (Qu. P1, . . . *Kinds of freshwater fish . . . caught around here . . . good to eat*) Inf OK11, Nigger bass.

nigger bath n Cf *bitch bath*, cat ~, French dry clean

1953 AmSp 28.145 cFL, A *nigger bath* is a talcum-powder bath; a *bitch bath* requires talcum powder, deodorant, and perfume.

niggerbelly n

=flathead catfish 1.

1908 Forbes—Richardson *Fishes of IL* 193, It [= *Leptops olivaris*] is perhaps best known to the fishermen of the Mississippi River as the "Morgan cat," and less often referred to as the "cushawn." . . Other local names are mud-cat, flat-belly, and nigger-belly. **1947** Dalrymple *Panfish* 291, *Pilodictis olivaris*. . . is a very large fish inhabiting the muddy bottoms of large, deep rivers, particularly in the Mississippi system. . . Many are the colloquial names for it—Yellow Cat, Mud-Cat, Morgan Cat, Shovelhead Cat, Flat-belly, Nigger-belly, Goujon.

nigger black duck See **nigger duck 1**

nigger boy n [See quot 1932]

=limpkin.

1932 Howell *FL Bird Life* 201, The Limpkin rises from the marsh with a quick spring. . . The note of the bird is very characteristic—a loud, mournful wail suggesting the cry of a child. . . This explains the origin of the names "Crying Bird" and "Nigger Boy." **1946** Hausman *Eastern Birds* 233, Nigger Boy. . . Notes—Harsh, weird, mournful wailing cries, uttered both by day and by night, often sounding like the crying of a human voice. **1954** Sprunt *FL Bird Life* 138, Limpkin. . . Local Names: Nigger boy; Crying Bird.

nigger brand n

A sore on a horse's back caused by an ill-fitting saddle or by over-riding; hence adj *nigger branded*.

1936 Adams *Cowboy Lingo* 87, To ride a horse until his back became sore was to 'beefsteak' or 'gimlet' him, and such sores were called 'nigger brands.' **1961** Adams *Old-Time Cowhand* 113, Some saddles don't fit the hoss they're on, and cause sores . . . and the hoss . . . is said to be "nigger branded."

nigger catcher n

1936 Adams *Cowboy Lingo* 46, The small slotted leather flap on one or both sides of the saddle, usually at the base of the fork or cantle, or both, were called 'nigger catchers.' The purpose of these was to hold the long free end of the latigo through the slit when cinched up.

nigger chaser n

1 A type of firework that scoots along the ground. Cf **chaser 2**, **coon chaser**, **devil ~**

1883 (1958) Peck *Peck's Bad Boy & Pa* 36 **Milwaukee WI**, I had a lot of rockets and Roman candles, and six pin-wheels, and a lot of nigger chasers. . . A nigger chaser got after Ma and treed her on top of the sofa, and another one took after a girl that Ma had invited to dinner. **1894** Frederic *Marsena* 152 nNY, Their pockets literally bulging now with all sorts of portentous engines of noise and racket . . . long, slim, vicious-looking "nigger-chasers." **1959** *IN Mag. Hist.* 55.229 (as of c1920), There I was with my puny packets of Chinese squibs compared with the neighbors' younguns' wealth of big Roman candles, pinwheels, nigger chasers, giant crackers, and the breath-taking splendor of sky-rockets. **1965-70 DARE** (Qu. FF28, . . . *Kinds of fireworks*; not asked in early QRs) 63 Infs, scattered, Nigger chasers; (Qu. FF14, . . . *Kinds of firecrackers*) 10 Infs, esp Sth, S Midl, Nigger chasers; (Qu. FF15) Inf CT27, Nigger chaser. **1967 DARE** FW Addit cwLA, *Nigger chaser*—Kind of fireworks that whizzes along the ground, then explodes. (The boys selling fireworks would not name this until Negroes were out of earshot. Until then they called it by its trade name, whistling chaser).

2 See **nigger-shooter**.

nigger choker See **nigger killer 1**

nigger chub n Also *negro chub* [See quot 1949]

=cutlips minnow.

1884 Goode *Fisheries U.S.* 1.618 PA, MD, The "Cut-lips," "Day Chub," or "Nigger Chub," has but a narrow distribution, being found in abundance only in the basin of the Susquehanna. It reaches a length of six or eight inches, and has no economic importance. **1896** U.S. Natl.

Museum Bulletin 47.327, *Exoglossum maxillingua* . . Cut-lips; Nigger chub. . . Color olivaceous, smoky or dark above. 1946 LaMonte N. Amer. Game Fishes 161, Cutlip Minnow—*Exoglossum maxillingua* . . Negro Chub. 1949 Palmer Nat. Hist. 444, Cutlips Minnow, Nigger Chub. *Exoglossum maxillingua* . . Breeding male dark to almost black and longer than female.

nigger coffee See **negro coffee**

nigger daisy n

=black-eyed Susan 2.

1892 Jrl. Amer. Folkl. 5.98 eMA, *Rudbeckia hirta* . . nigger daisy. 1940 Clute Amer. Plant Names 86, [*Rudbeckia*] *hirta* . . nigger-daisy. 1968 DARE (Qu. S7, A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center, that grows along roadsides in late summer) Inf IN48, Nigger daisies.

nigger day n

1 =Emancipation (Proclamation) Day.

1967 DARE (Qu. FF16, . . Local contests or celebrations) Inf AR55, Niggers used to have Emancipation Day when they all wore yellow. We called it "Nigger Day"; TX16, Nigger Day—or the 'Teenth of June. Negroes celebrate their emancipation day—19th of June—by getting all dressed up, drinking, and eating watermelons. 1967 DARE FW Addit seTX, June the 'teenth called nigger day by whites. 19th of June. Big celebration by Galveston Negro population. 1970 Ibid KY92, On August 8, Blacks in this area celebrate what they call their Independence Day. It is the Black equivalent to July 4th. It relates to the Emancipation Proclamation. The news was slow getting around, and evidently slaves in this area received the news on August 8. The holiday has over the years lost its historical significance and is now a Homecoming. . . The celebration has been called derogatorily by Whites "Nigger Day."

2 Saturday. Cf **nigger night**

[1889 Edwards Runaways 232 GA, Never before had Tom known of a church meeting on Saturday afternoon. It was the time universally claimed by the negroes for town shopping or loafing.] 1931 AmSp 7.51 Sth, SW [Lumberjack lingo], Almost every camp in the South has a negro section, usually off to one side of the main camp. . . Saturday night is "nigger day." 1966 PADS 46.27 cnAR (as of 1952), Nigger day. . . Saturday. The name comes from the type of crowd seen on the streets of the town. On other days of the week Negroes would be working at their jobs and not be free to do their shopping.

nigger dick n Also **nigger prick**

=cutlips minnow.

1896 U.S. Natl. Museum Bulletin 47.327, *Exoglossum maxillingua* . . Cut-lips; Nigger chub; Nigger Dick. . . Color olivaceous, smoky or dark above. 1945 McAtee Nomina Abiteria 20, Cut-lips Minnow (*Exoglossum maxillingua*)—Nigger-dick. . . The more literal form "nigger-prick" is reported to me . . . as heard in the District of Columbia.

nigger duck n [From the color]

1 also **nigger (black duck)**: A black duck 1 (here: *Anas rubripes*).

1876 Fur, Fin, & Feather Sep. 101/2 (DA), The gray-duck, shell-drake and teal . . are obliged to tolerate in their society that . . stupid, tough, shot-resisting thing, which is vulgarly called 'nigger duck.' 1917 Wilson Bulletin 29.2.77 DE, *Anas rubripes*. . . The black-legged form is known as nigger black duck, and the other as red paddle. 1923 U.S. Dept. Ag. Misc. Circular 13.9 CT, Long Is. NY, Black Duck. . . niggerduck. 1955 AmSp 30.180 CT, DE, MD, Nigger duck has been applied to the black duck.

2 A scoter; see quot.

1923 U.S. Dept. Ag. Misc. Circular 13.27 KY, Scoters. . . nigger ducks. 1949 Kitchin Birds Olympic Peninsula 53, White-winged Scoter. . . Other names: Nigger-duck. [Ibid 54, The male scoter has a solid black plumage with pure white speculum on the wings. . . Female, dark brown with white speculum.] Ibid, Surf-Scoter. . . Nigger duck. . . He, too, wears black plumage. Ibid 55, American Scoter. . . Other names: Nigger-duck. . . He is black all over, showing no white feathers like the other two varieties.

nigger engine See **nigger** n¹ B6

nigger fever n Cf **nigger** v 3

1969 DARE (Qu. Y21, To move about slowly and without energy) Inf NY209, Nigger fever.

niggerfish n

1 also **negro fish**: =coney n² a.

1734 in 1735 Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans. for 1733–34 38.316 SE, *Perca marina punctulata*. The Negro Fish. 1743 Catesby Nat. Hist. Carolina 2.7 SE, *Perca marina punctulata*. The Negro Fish. This Fish was in Shape not unlike a Peach, . . of a dark brown Colour. . . The Mouth wide, with a single Row of sharp Teeth. 1876 U.S. Natl. Museum Bulletin 5.59, *Enneacentrus punctatus*. . . Nigger-fish (red variety). Ibid 60, The red form corresponds to *Serranus ouatalibi*, and is known as the Nigger-fish. 1933 John G. Shedd Aquarium Guide 97, Epinephelidae—The groupers. . . *Cephalopholis fulvus punctatus*—Coney; Niggerfish.

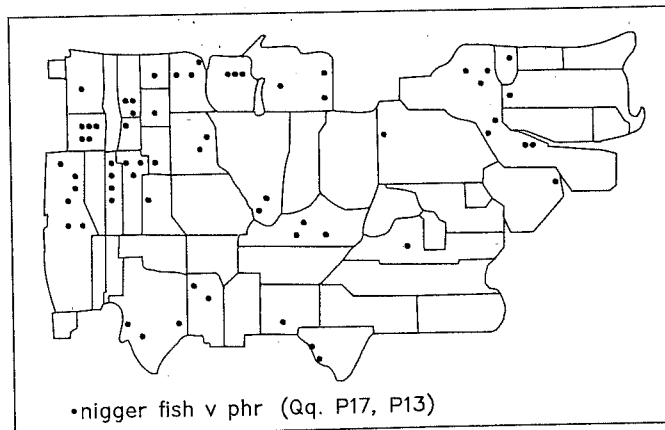
2 A winter flounder (here: *Pleuronectes americanus*).

1887 Goode Amer. Fishes 321, The Flat Fish, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*, or Common Flounder, sometimes called the "Winter Flounder". . . New York anglers call it the "Nigger Fish."

nigger fish v phr, hence vbl n **nigger fishing** scattered, but more freq **Inland Nth, West** See Map Cf **nigger pole**

To fish by any of var simple and inactive methods, esp by using a cane pole and line.

1933 Rawlings South Moon 231 FL, "I don't mean casting. My father fishes that way. I mean, with a pole." "Oh—nigger fishin'." 1965–70 DARE (Qu. P17, . . When . . people fish by lowering a line and sinker close to the bottom of the water) 49 Infs, scattered, but more freq **Inland Nth, West**, Nigger fishing; FL39, Nigger fishing—with a cane pole; always get catfish this way; MI105, Nigger fishing—you wouldn't dare say that today; NY93, Just plain fishing or nigger fishing; NY233, Nigger fishing—bait has to be on bottom; (Qu. P13, . . Ways of fishing . . besides the ordinary hook and line) Inf AL31, Nigger fishing—cane pole with line out; CO4, Nigger fishing—bamboo pole; MN2, Nigger fishing—using just the line through a hole in the ice; ND1, Nigger fishing—using 3 poles; NJ41, Regular hook and line is nigger fishing; NY93, Nigger fishing—with pole and line; NY205, Nigger fishing—just twine and pin; SD3, Nigger fishing—cane pole; sit on bank; TX4, Nigger fishing—cane pole; cork float to see what's biting; TX37, Nigger fishing; WA30, Nigger fishing—just set your pole and wait for days. 1968 DARE Tape LA16, [Inf:] We're not lure fishermen; we haven't practiced that. [FW:] What's your tackle like? [Inf:] Just a hook and a cane pole, string. [FW:] Do you have a particular name for that kind of fishing? [Inf:] Nigger fishin'. 1969 DARE FW Addit AZ, Nigger fishin'—propping the fishing pole up on a forked stick and sitting back drinking beer, waiting for the bobber to bounce. Used very derogatorily—a lazy, inferior way of fishing. c1970 Halpert Coll. 45 wKY, nwTN, Nigger-fishin' = Fishing with bait, such as a worm or dough ball. 1986 Pederson LAGS Concordance, 1 inf, ceLA, They don't nigger fish—with pole or line; 1 inf, cwAR, Nigger fishing—with pole and line or trotlines; 1 inf, cwAR, Nigger fishing—with cane poles; 1 inf, neTX, Nigger fishing = cane pole and a bucket of minnows; 1 inf, seTX, Nigger fishing—cane fishing or with a hand line; 1 inf, nwFL, I done nigger fishing—fishing from the bank.



nigger flea n

1890 DN 1.65 KY, Nigger-flea: a broom-straw coated with the tallow of the tallow-candle. It was stuck on the "nigger's" flesh while he was asleep, and lighted.

nigger-flipper See **flipper** n¹ 3

nigger gin See **nigger liquor**

niggergoose *n*

1 also *negro goose*: Usu = **double-crested cormorant**, but also a **Mexican cormorant** (here: *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*). [See quot 1955]

1909 Field Museum Nat. Hist. Zool. Ser. 9.309, *Phalacrocorax auritus* . . . Double-crested Cormorant. . . Local name: Nigger Goose. 1911 *Forest & Stream* 77.174, *Phalacrocorax species*.—Cormorants go by the name of Nigger Geese at St. Vincent Island, Fla., and Chef Menteur and Mississippi Delta, La. 1916 *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans LA) 26 Mar mag sec 1/8, *Double-crested cormorant* . . . "Nigger Goose." *Ibid*, *Florida cormorant*. . . In plumage the "nigger goose" (a name by which all of the cormorants are known locally) is greenish-black. *Ibid*, *Mexican cormorant*. . . This "nigger goose" has a white packet of feathers on each side of the head during the breeding season. 1939 FWP *Guide TN* 428 **nwTN**, More than 250 species of birds stop off here on their annual migrations. Among them are ducks, geese, water turkeys or cormorants ("nigger geese"), coots, and white herons. 1954 Sprunt *FL Bird Life* 18, Double-crested Cormorant: *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*. . . Local Names: Nigger-Goose. . . Florida Cormorant: *Phalacrocorax auritus floridanus*. . . Local Names: Water-Turkey; Nigger Goose. 1955 *Oriole* 20.1.1, Double-Crested Cormorant.—Nigger Goose (in allusion to its black color and to its goose-like appearance, especially in flight in the V-formation so closely associated with the Canada goose). 1967–70 *DARE* (Qu. Q6, . . . *Kinds of wild geese*) Inf **DE1**, Niggergeese—different from regular geese but you have to look close; **NY47**, Niggergeese—big, black geese; (Qu. Q10, . . . *Water birds and marsh birds*) Inf **IL14**, Niggergeese—black as coal and not worth a damn; **VA52A**, Niggergeese—cormorant, probably double-crested cormorant; **VA79**, Niggergeese. [*DARE* Ed: Some of these Infs may refer instead to 2 below.] 1969 *DARE* FW Addit **Hatteras Is. NC**, [*nigro*] goose—local name for gannet. 1970 *DARE* Tape **VA112**, [*FW*]: So it's sort of a dark-colored bird? [Inf:] You're talking about a, let's see; we call 'em niggergeese too, 'cause they're black. Now that's just the language of old times, you know. 1981 Pederson *LAGS Basic Materials*, 1 inf, **swFL**, Niggergeese—black geese.

2 = **Canada goose**.

1913 Bailey *Birds VA* 28, *Canada Goose* . . . Wild Goose. Honker. Nigger Goose.

3 also *negro goose*: = **anhinga**. Cf **nigger loon**

1931 Read *LA French* 5, American Snakebird (*Plotus anHINGA* L.); in English commonly known as the "water turkey"—sometimes as the "negro goose" or "water crow." 1955 *AmSp* 30.180 **TX**, *Nigger goose*. . . is sometimes used for the anhinga or water turkey.

nigger guinea *n* Cf **guinea woodpecker**

= **ivory-billed woodpecker**.

1953 *AmSp* 28.277, Nigger guinea—Ivory-billed woodpecker—Texas. [Footnote to *nigger guinea*.] Ironical, as a bird used for food by Negroes, in the absence of a guinea.

nigger hair *n* Cf **nigger's hair**

1 A red alga (*Polysiphonia harveyi*).

1853 Smithsonian Inst. *Smithsonian Contrib.* 5.5.41 **Long Is. NY**, While dredging with Professor Bailey in Peconic Bay, our exclamations of delight on hauling up some specimens of it [= *Polysiphonia arietina*] attracted the notice of one of our boatmen, who took up a handful of what we seemed so eagerly hoarding, but immediately threw it down with a "Pooh! that's what we call 'nigger-hair'." 1884 U.S. Natl. Museum *Bulletin* 27.613, *Polysiphonia Harveyi*. . . Nigger-hair. Wood's Holl [sic], Massachusetts. 1901 Arnold *Sea-Beach* 88, *P[olysiphonia] harveyi*. Frond two to six inches high; grows in globose tufts, and has a bushy aspect. . . Common in Long Island Sound and northward. Called locally *niggerhair*.

2 A reed grass (here: *Calamagrostis rubescens*).

1937 St. John *Flora SE WA & ID* 37, *Calamagrostis rubescens*. . . *Nigger Hair*. Stems tufted, from creeping rhizomes. . . Somewhat rough, but a valuable forage plant.

3 Finely cut tobacco used for both chewing and smoking. esp **Gt Lakes**

1966–68 *DARE* (Qu. DD1, . . . *Forms* . . . [of] *chewing tobacco*) Inf **M24**, Nigger hair; **MN8**, Nigger hair—same as fine-cut; **WI30**, Nigger hair—loose, stringy; **WI48**, Nigger hair—older name for bigger hair; **WI60**, Nigger hair—now called bigger hair—a loose tobacco used mostly for smoking but also for chewing. 1969 Sorden *Lumberjack*

Lingo 80 **NEng. Gt Lakes**, *Nigger hair*—A popular smoking and chewing tobacco in early days.

nigger hater *n*

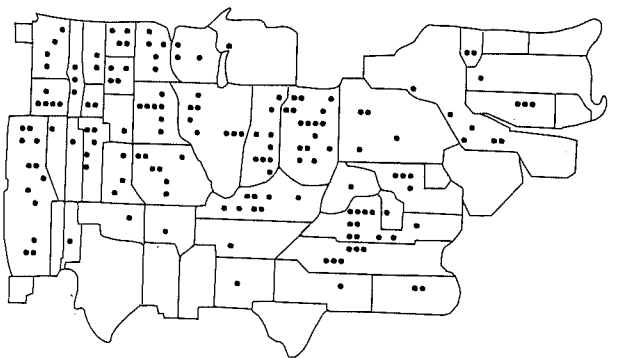
= **mockingbird** 1.

1968 *DARE* (Qu. Q14, . . . *Names* . . . for . . . *mockingbird*) Inf **MD40**, Nigger hater.

niggerhead *n*

1 A rock, stone, or boulder, esp one dark in color. **wide-spread exc Gulf States** See **Map**

1847 *Howe Hist. Coll. OH* 569 **cOH**, It was a saw mill, with a small pair of stones attached, made of boulders, or "nigger heads," as they are commonly called. 1889 Smithsonian Inst. *Annual Rept. for 1886* 2.523, *Nigger head*. (1) The black concretionary nodules found in granite; (2) Any hard, dark, colored rock weathering out into rounded nodules or boulders; (3) Slaty rock associated with sandstone. A quarryman's term. 1906 *DN* 3.114 **sIN**, An aged Indian wandered through the neighborhood for days, searching among certain boulders, dark soft stones as large as a man's head and termed "niggerheads" by natives. 1936 McKenna *Black Range* 48 **swNM**, The hammers and war axes we took note of were nearly all made of a niggerhead rock not found in the vicinity. 1939 FWP *Guide KS* 8, Numerous boulders lie scattered over the pastures in this section of the State, most of them red or pinkish in color and hard as flint. These boulders of red quartzite have been used to some extent in building construction and are locally known as "niggerheads." 1948 Dick *Dixie Frontier* 4 **KY**, Bears rolled "nigger head" stones over and ate the grubs and field mice. 1950 *WELS WI* (*A piece of stone that one person could move but not throw*) 1 Inf, Niggerhead; 1 Inf, Niggerhead—size of a human head and dark; (*Kinds of stones of particular size, shape, color*) 1 Inf, Niggerheads; 1 Inf, Niggerhead—dark, smooth, hard, large; 1 Inf, Niggerheads—black, small boulders left by glacial drift; 1 Inf, Niggerheads—dark colored, smooth surface; 1 Inf, Niggerheads—large round ones; 1 Inf, Niggerheads—black; 1 Inf, Niggerheads—depends on shape and hardness, not color; 1 Inf, Niggerhead—roundish, smooth, usually dark. 1960 *Criswell Resp. to PADS* 20 **Ozarks**, *Niggerhead*, a round stone often approaching the size of a person's head, often rather dark because of the presence of iron ore. 1965–70 *DARE* (Qu. C25, . . . *Kinds of stone* . . . about . . . [*size of a person's head*], *smooth and hard*) 154 Infs, **widespread exc Gulf States**, Niggerhead; **VA5**, Niggerhead rock; (Qu. C22, *A piece of stone too big for one person to move easily*) Infs **IA24**, **NY66**, Niggerhead; (Qu. C24a, *A small piece of stone that you could easily throw*) Infs **NM1**, **NY59**, Niggerhead; (Qu. C26, . . . *Special kinds of stone or rock*) Inf **NC52**, Niggerhead—a black rock; **NY93**, Niggerhead—great big huge hard stone you have to blast out of the ground; **KY11**, Niggerheads. 1973 *PADS* 59.44 [Bituminous coal mining vocab], *Niggerhead* . . . a small, hard ball of rock, often pressed slate. 1983 *MJLF* 9.1.49 **ceKY**, *Nigger head* . . . a geode; a variety of round, very hard stones. 1991 *DARE* File **seWI** (as of 1950–60), I [= a steam fitter] have heard and used the term niggerhead when we were drilling holes in concrete and would run into black stones that were used in the mix. They were very hard and tough to get through.



•niggerhead 1 + var (Qq. C25, C22, C24a, C26)

2 A mound of vegetation; a tussock; an area having many tussocks. **scattered, but esp AK**

1859 (1968) Bartlett *Americanisms* 292, *Nigger heads*. The tussocks or knotted masses of the roots of sedges and ferns projecting above the wet surface of a swamp. South. 1892 Lee *Hist. Columbus OH* 1.274,

Hummocks, called in the borough dialect "nigger-heads," formed by tufts of swamp grass. 1894 DN 1.342 wCT, *Nigger-head*: clump of fern-roots in swamps. When the land is reclaimed they remain for years undecayed, showing as black lumps in the ploughed field. 1898 Haskell 2 Yrs. 192 AK, There are great stretches of tundra covered with clumps of grass which have sprung up sometimes on fields of solid ice. White people here call these grassy inventions of human torture "niggerheads." *Ibid* 194, The miners . . . of that country keep as far away from a niggerhead swamp as they conveniently can. 1900 Pop. Sci. Mth. 52.637 cwAK, The surface is pre-eminently swampy during the warmer periods of the year, and walking over it means either wading through the water or risking continuous jumps to and from the individual clumps of matted grass and moss—the so-called "nigger-heads." 1901 Brooks et al. *Reconnaissances* AK 165 swAK, In many places these tundra grasses [= *Eriophorum* spp] grow in bunches, making hard lumps, known as "nigger heads," which turn under the feet in the more yielding moss and greatly increase the annoyance of tundra traveling. a1922 (1953) Brooks *Blazing* 66 AK, There is also a variety of sedge known as tundra or cotton grass. This grows in thick tufts which project above the intervening moss carpet and forms the so-called "nigger head" which is so difficult to traverse. 1940 AK *Sportsman* Feb 23, The ground is moss covered . . . and is very difficult to travel owing to the "niggerhead" formations and the boggy condition when thawed. 1947 *Jrl. Wildlife Management* 2.66 sLA, Muskrats can dig . . . leaving clumps of cordgrass. This cordgrass produces an erect rather than prostrate growth, eventually forming "niggerheads." Cordgrass niggerheads only 8 inches across at the base may produce a canopy shading out all other vegetation within a radius of 4 feet. 1968 DARE (Qu. L8) Inf CT2, Niggerheads grow in bogs, usually in a marshy field. Heavy clumps of grass about a foot wide. 1976 Hobbs-Specht *Tisha* 20 AK, "Have you ever crossed a niggerhead flat?" . . . He wheeled his horse and the pack train started forward. . . Then we hit swamp. Out of it grew great big hummocks of matted grass that looked like giant mops. They grew so thick that I thought of getting off Blossom and walking on them. Like the other animals, he wasn't having easy going. The mud sucked at his hoofs, and he kept slipping all over the place and stumbling over submerged roots. 3 Any of var plants, as:

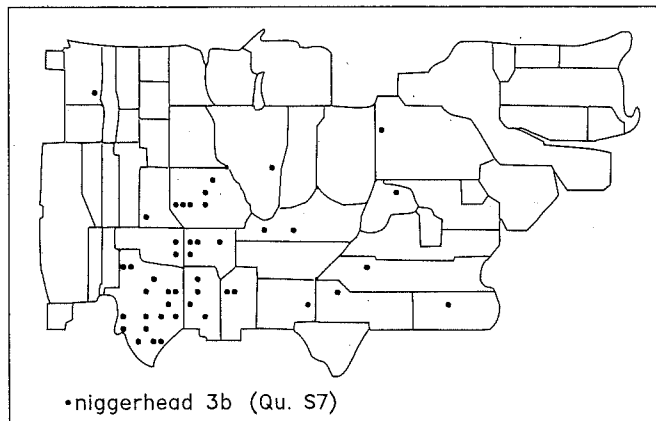
a also *niggerhead cactus*: *Usu* a barrel cactus such as *Echinocactus polycephalus* or *Ferocactus wislizenii*, but also a hedgehog cactus 3 such as *Echinocereus engelmanni* or *E. triglochidiatus*. [See quot 1941] esp AZ

1877 Hodge *Arizona* 244, The nigger head is round, of the size of a cabbage, and covered with large, crooked, catlike thorns. 1896 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 9.188 AZ, *Echinocactus wislizenii* . . . niggerhead cactus, barrel cactus. 1924 Austin *Land of Journeys' Ending* 127 AZ, There are scores of variations of the bisnaga type, "niggerhead," "fish-hook," and "cushion" cacti, running to fat button shapes or short thickened cylinders, widely distributed through the Southwest. 1940 Benson *Cacti* AZ 109, *Echinocactus polycephalus* . . . Nigger Heads. 1941 Jaeger *Wildflowers* 165 Desert SW, Niggerheads . . . *Echinocactus polycephalus* . . . Most commonly called "niggerheads," because of the general dark color of the melon-shaped heads. 1942 Whipple *Joshua* 189 UT (as of c1860), The niggerhead cactus pushing golden cups out of every rock crevice. 1951 Abrams *Flora Pacific States* 3.155, *Echinocereus Munzii* . . . Munz's Nigger-head . . . *Echinocereus mojaviensis* . . . Mojave Nigger-heads. *Ibid* 156, *Echinocactus polycephalus* . . . Nigger-heads. 1974 Munz *Flora S. CA* 311, *E[chinocactus] polycephalus* . . . Nigger-Heads.

b =black-eyed Susan 2. chiefly TX, Lower Missip Valley See Map Cf nigger daisy, ~ heel b, ~ navel, ~ nose, niggerthumb, nigger tits, niggertoe 5

1893 Price *Flora Warren Co. KY* 15, *Rudbeckia* . . . *fulgida* . . . Cone Flower. "Nigger-head." 1894 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 7.92, *Rudbeckia triloba* . . . nigger-heads, Anderson, Ind. 1906 DN 3.148 nwAR, *Nigger-head* . . . Ox-eye daisy. "Nigger-heads have a large black centre and yellow petals." 1915 DN 4.227 wTX, *Nigger-head* . . . A peculiar six-petalled flower whose stamens and pistils form a long and narrow cone. 1920 *Torrey* 20.25, *Rudbeckia montana* . . . Niggerhead, Uintah Mts., Utah. 1932 Rydberg *Flora Prairies* 835, *Rudbeckia* . . . Nigger-heads. 1937 U.S. Forest Serv. *Range Plant Hdbk.* W163, Niggerhead [= *Rudbeckia occidentalis*] is a coarse perennial herb of the aster or sunflower (composite) family. 1941 Writers' Program *Guide UT* 310, The delicate beauty of geraniums, violets, columbines, blue bells, daisies, and wild pansies is contrasted with the hardy and more colorful Indian paintbrush, yarrow, grape, "niggerhead," and wild mustard. 1954 *Harder Coll.* cwTN, *Nigger head*—flower: black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). 1960 Criswell *Resp. to PADS* 20 Ozarks, Black-eyed Susan; com-

moner terms: niggerhead, nigger navel (pron. *nabel*). 1964 PADS 42.21 wKY, *Niggerhead* . . . The black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). 1965–70 DARE (Qu. S7, A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center, that grows along roadsides in late summer) 45 Infs, chiefly TX, Lower Missip Valley, Niggerhead.



c =buckhorn plantain.

1897 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 10.53 seNY, *Plantago lanceolata* . . . nigger-heads . . . Southold, L[ong] I[sland]. 1991 DARE File seNY, Nigger-heads = narrow-leaved plantain.

d A trillium (here: *Trillium sessile*).

1897 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 10.145 IN, *Trillium sessile* . . . nigger-heads.

e A greenbrier (here: *Smilax rotundifolia*).

[1892 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 5.104, *Smilax rotundifolia* . . . Nigger-head. Miramichi, N[ew] B[runswick].] 1900 Lyons *Plant Names* 348, *Smilax rotundifolia* . . . Nigger-head. 1960 Vines *Trees SW* 75, Common Greenbrier—*Smilax rotundifolia* . . . Vernacular names for the plant are Biscuit-leaves . . . Niggerhead . . . and Sow-brier.

f A zinnia (here: *Zinnia elegans*).

1898 *Jrl. Amer. Folkl.* 11.230, *Zinnia elegans* . . . niggerheads, St. Joseph, Mo.

g A yucca; see quot.

1902 *Out West Mag.* Oct 452, He . . . told her their many aliases of maguey, "soapweed," "niggerhead," bear grass, Spanish dagger or bayonet. [DARE Ed: The term 'maguey' is generally used only of the genus *Agave*.]

h See quot. Cf greasewood

1907 White *AZ Nights* 23, "How's that?" he cried in triumph. "Found her just now while I was rustling nigger-heads for a fire." *Ibid* 40, After a moment we tore off long bundles of the nigger-head blades, lit the resinous ends at our fire, and with these torches started to make our way along the base of the cliff to the other cave.

i A rush (here: *Juncus effusus*).

1923 in 1925 Jepson *Manual Plants CA* 200, [*Juncus effusus*] Var. *brunneus* . . . Nigger Heads. . . Perianth and capsule dark brown.

j A beggar ticks 1 (here: *Bidens polylepis*).

1926 *Torrey* 26.7 MS, *Bidens involucrata* . . . Nigger-head, Pickens Miss.

k =purple coneflower.

1924 *Amer. Botanist* 30.33 West, I knew, *Brauneria purpurea* as "nigger-head." 1929 *Folk-Say* 76 OK, A tea made of the root of "nigger head" would cure snakebite. This plant is better known farther afield as "purple rayed coneflower." 1930 Sievers *Amer. Med. Plants* 27 KS, *Echinacea angustifolia* . . . niggerhead. 1940 Early *New Engl. Sampler* 317, Another remarkable weed is *Echinacea* (*Indian Head-root* or *Nigger-head*), a powerful drug, and an American cure-all for nearly three hundred years. Indians scraped the root, and used it as treatment for hydrophobia, insect, and snake bites. 1959 Carleton *Index Herb. Plants* 86, *Nigger-head*: *Brauneria purpurea*; . . . *Lepachys columnaris* [= *Ratibida columnifera*]; *Rudbeckia hirta*.

l A prairie coneflower: *usu* *Ratibida columnifera*, but also *R. tagetes*.

1933 Small *Manual SE Flora* 1428, *R[atibida] columnaris* . . . *Nigger-head* . . . Dry soils, prairies, plains, and hills. 1936 Whitehouse *TX Flowers* 173, *Niggerhead* . . . *Ratibida columnaris* . . . is a very handsome plant. . . In South Texas it is at its best in April and May. . . The

dwarf niggerhead (*Ratibida taqueti*) is quite similar to the large niggerhead in growth habit and coloring, but it is a smaller plant and has smaller flowers. 1959 [see 3k above].

m A cotton grass 1 (here: *Eriophorum vaginatum*).

1959 Anderson *Flora* AK 111, *E. vaginatum*. . . Niggerheads, Sheathed Cotton-grass. Densely tufted, forming "niggerheads".

4 Any of var freshwater clams; see quotes. chiefly Missip Valley

1908 Kunz-Stevenson *Book of the Pearl* 72, The niggerhead (*Quadrula ebena*) is the most numerous in the Mississippi, and it is extensively used in button manufacture. The thick shell of this species is almost round, with a black outer surface and a pearly white interior. 1911 *Century Dict. Suppl.*, Niggerhead. . . A fresh-water mussel, *Quadrula ebena*, of the Mississippi River, used in the manufacture of pearl buttons. It is rather small with a thick shell and a black or dark brown outer skin. . . *Warty-back niggerhead*, *Quadrula metanerva* or *Q. pustulosa*. 1933 LA Dept. of Conserv. *Fishes* 416, The Shovelnose happens to be the only fish host known to carry the parasitic glochidia stages of one of the Mississippi mussels, the "Glassy-back" or Missouri "Niggerhead" (*Obovaria elliptica*). 1938 FWP *Guide* LA 327, The fisherman's haul usually contained a wide assortment of shells: the niggerhead, with its round, flat exterior and milk-white interior, which would produce many blanks able to bear a bright, lustrous polish. 1940-41 Cassidy *WI Atlas*, 1 Inf, WI, Clam shells, niggerhead, oyster shell, mucket. 1941 *AmSp* 16.155 **Missip Valley**, [There are many varieties of fresh-water mussels, but the button-cutter is ignorant of any technical terminology for them. His names are mostly descriptive and frequently picturesque. . . Arkansas . . . Elephant Ear.] *Ibid* 156, Niggerhead . . . Washboard. 1941 *Writers' Program Guide* AR 207 **neAR**, Dredging the White River and its tributaries for fresh-water mussels used for button making affords farmers a part-time occupation. . . Payment . . . varies according to the type of shell, "grandmaws," "pocketbooks," and "cucumbers" bringing less than "elephant ears" and "niggerheads." 1953 (1977) Hubbard *Shantyboat* 211 **Missip-Ohio Valleys**, We learned that there are many classes of shells, of different value. Those called sand and niggerhead shells bring the highest price; then muckets and pigtoes. 1966 *WI Conserv. Bulletin* 31.3.26 **WI**, In the first decade of the 20th century. . . [C]lamming was big business. Hundreds of clam boats dragged the bottom . . . bringing up most the valuable and abundant "niggerhead," as well as many other species.

5 =rufous-sided towhee.

1955 *AmSp* 30.180 **WA**, The spotted towhee is locally known as the *niggerhead* in the state of Washington.

6 A storm cloud. Cf thunderhead

1914 *DN* 4.110 **cKS**, *Nigger-head*. . . Dark cumulus clouds close to the horizon. 1929 Bell *Some Contrib. KS Vocab* 241, Niggerhead. . . A name for one of the black-tipped cumulus clouds known also as "thunder heads." 1967-70 *DARE* (Qu. B9, . . . *Big clouds that roll up high before a rainstorm*) Infs IL114, TN31, 34, 36, WY5, Niggerheads; OH31, Niggerheads—my grandmother said that.

7 A small black candy usu made from licorice; see quotes. Cf nigger baby 1, niggertoe 7

1901 *DN* 2.144 **ePA**, *Niggerhead*. . . A kind of hard, black candy made both in spheres and in flat pieces. 1967-70 *DARE* (Qu. H82b, *Kinds of cheap candy that used to be sold years ago*) Infs MO12, 25, Niggerheads; KY84, Niggerheads—same as chocolate drops; LA33, Niggerheads—in the shape of a head made with licorice; LA40, Niggerheads—licorice in the shape of a head; LA43, Niggerheads—round with a head on it made of licorice; PA41, Niggerheads—black, face of a person, licorice.

8 In railroading:

a A steam dome, spec the one on top of a locomotive boiler; see quotes.

1932 *RR Mag.* Oct 369, *Niggerhead*—Steam exit on top of boiler from which pipes to injector, etc., issue. 1940 Cottrell *Railroader* 133, *Niggerhead*—Steam dome on top of locomotive boiler from which issue pipes to injector, and other auxiliary equipment.

b See quot.

1916 *DN* 4.356 [Railroad terms], *Nigger-head*. . . In signals, a contrivance which trips to danger as the train passes over it.

9 A bollard or capstan. Cf nigger n¹ B6

1911 *Century Dict. Suppl.*, *Niggerhead*. . . A spool or capstan for lifting or hauling, formed on the end of a shaft which is turned by power: so called because it is usually black. 1927 (1942) Bradford *Gloss. Sea Terms* 119, *Nigger heads*, a name for bollards, and sometimes applied

to winch heads. 1965 Will *Okeechobee Boats* 136 **FL**, With a rope to that stationary engine's nigger head he got her into the lake again. 1966-67 *DARE* Tape SC18, They now have winches to pull the net in and let the net out. They used to use what's called a niggerhead because it was a hard piece of iron, a round spool that came from a shaft running to the engine and it would wrap the cables. *Ibid* TX14, We got the lazy line that goes to the net and we put it on what we call the niggerhead, which is a small rope capstan. 1968 *DARE* FW Addit **New Orleans LA**, *Niggerhead*—slanted iron post projecting from the curb at street corners to keep carriages from ruining the curb. Named for the rounded knob at top. Old-fashioned; item still seen at some street corners. 1984 *DARE* File **Chesapeake Bay** [Watermen's vocab], Cleat, niggerhead / samson post / dredge post.

10 See quot.

1959 *VT Hist.* 27.150, *Niggerhead*. . . A milk can.

11 See quot.

1968 *DARE* (Qu. H21, . . . *The sweet stuff that's poured over these [pan]cakes*) Inf DE3, There used to be one they called niggerhead; right black molasses.

niggerhead cactus See **niggerhead 3a**

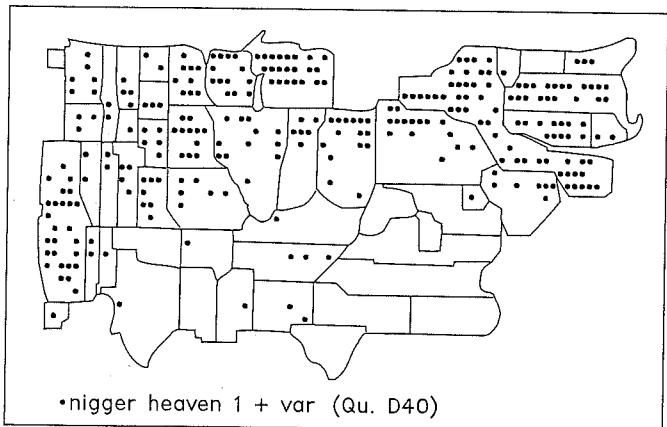
niggerheading vbl n Cf **nigger v 3**

1968 *DARE* (Qu. A9, . . . *Wasting time by not working on the job*) Inf WV13, Niggerheading.

nigger heaven n

1 also niggers' heaven: The highest balcony in a theater. chiefly **Nth, Plains States, Rocky Mts, CA** See Map

1878 in 1917 Daly *Life* 249 **ceNY**, There is a 'Nigger Heaven' (as the third tier is called in Troy) here. 1900 *DN* 2.47 **NY, OH, RI** [College slang], *Nigger-heaven*. . . Topmost gallery of a theatre. 1960 Criswell *Resp. to PADS* 20 **Ozarks**, *Nigger heaven*—This was used mostly by hearsay because most of these people had never seen a standard theater, and they had no Negroes in their population who would go to theaters. I think I have heard the term for fifty years. 1965-70 *DARE* (Qu. D40, *Names and nicknames . . . for the upper balcony in a theater*) 274 Infs, chiefly **Nth, Plains States, Rocky Mts, CA**, Nigger heaven; MA7, 44, 48, MI96, NY194, 209, PA234, WI72, Niggers' heaven; (QR, near Qu. FF25) Inf NJ58, Nigger heaven. 1979 *DARE* File **cnMA** (as of c1915), Sometimes people called the balcony in the movie theater in our town "nigger heaven." This made no sense to me, for there were no Negroes in town. Anybody could sit there. 1988 *Lincoln Avenue* 26 **wNC** (as of c1940) [Black], The local theater admitted colored patrons to its balcony, known colloquially as "Nigger Heaven" and reserved especially for colored citizens.



2 =Fiddler's Green.

1906 *DN* 3.148 **nWAR**, *Nigger-heaven*. . . In the verb phrase, "to be in nigger-heaven," i.e., to enjoy one's self cheaply and vulgarly. "He's in nigger-heaven now."

nigger heel n

1 See niggertoe 10.

2 See quot. Cf nigger liquor

1968 *DARE* (Qu. DD21b, *General words . . . for bad liquor*) Inf CT17, Nigger heel—seventy-five cents per quart gin.

3 See quot. Cf long-heel

1927 *Ruppenthal Coll. KS*, *Nigger heel*—An unusually long heel (of a person); a rearward projection of the heel beyond average.

4 A purple coneflower (here: *Echinacea angustifolia*).

1933 *Torrey* 33.84 NE, *Brauneria angustifolia*. . . Niggerheel, Valentine.

5 Any of var nuts; see quot. Cf **nigger nut**, **niggertoe** 1, 6
1906 DN 3.148 nwAR, *Nigger-heel, nigger-toe*. . . Brazil nut. 1949 *AmSp* 24.111 nGA, *Nigger heels*. . . Hazelnuts. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 2 infs, AL, Nigger heel(s) = Brazil nut(s); 1 inf, AL, Nigger heel—black, one end thick, other pointed; 2 infs, AL, LA, Nigger heels—butternuts; 4 infs, AL, LA, MS, TN, Nigger heel(s) [DARE Ed: It is impossible to determine what kinds of nuts these four infs are referring to.]

6 pronc-sp nigger hill: A black-eyed Susan 2. Cf **nigger-head** 3b

1969 DARE (Qu. S7, *A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center, that grows along roadsides in late summer*) Inf MO6, Nigger hill ['nɪgəˌhɪl].

nigger hill See **nigger heel** 6

nigger in a blanket See **niggers in a blanket**

niggering (off) See **nigger** v 1

‡**nigger in the barrel** n

=**nigger in the woodpile** 1a.

1967 DARE (Qu. V1, *When you suspect that somebody is trying to deceive you, or that something is going on behind your back*. . . "There's _____.") Inf SC43, [A] nigger in the barrel.

nigger in the fence n esp Nth

=**nigger in the woodpile** 1a.

1847 *Yankee Doodle* 15 May 54/2 (*Mathews Coll.*), A Nigger in De Fence. This phrase was never so perfectly illustrated as by the law of Pennsylvania respecting the recovery of fugitive slaves. 1850 *CA Courier* (San Francisco CA) 4 Sept 2/6, The majority of the papers . . . think that there "is a nigger in the fence" somewhere. a1882 (1884) *Weed Life* 1.477 NY (as of 1839), I'll find out . . . what this means. There's a nigger in the fence somewhere. 1887 (1888) *Harte Phyllis* 81 CA, Ef he ain't scooped up by Jenny Bradley he'll guess there's a nigger in the fence somewhere. 1911 *Quick Yellowstone Nights* 286, He's always looking for a nigger in the fence. 1933 *Cheley Camping Out* 167 (DA), The fox can reason too, and says to himself, 'What in thunder made that galoot set a trap as if it were a signpost? There's a nigger in that fence!'¹ 1950 *WELS WI* (*When you suspect that somebody is trying to deceive you, or that something is going on behind your back, you say, "There's _____."*) 4 Infs, A nigger in the fence; (*If somebody has dishonest intentions, or is up to no good: "I think he's got _____."*) 1 Inf, A nigger in the fence. 1966–68 DARE (Qu. V1, *When you suspect that somebody is trying to deceive you, or that something is going on behind your back*. . . "There's _____.") Infs MI35, NY22, 96, 107, WI59, Nigger in the fence.

nigger in the woodpile n For varr see quotes

1a A concealed fact, factor, or motive; something suspicious. Cf **African** n¹, adj C2, **Ethiopian** 2

1846 *OH Statesman* 8 July 3/2 (*Mathews Coll.*), They smell a "rat." They talk as though there was a "nigger in the woodpile." 1852 in 1942 *KS Hist. Qrly.* 11.235, No "nigger in the woodpile" here. 1897 *Congressional Record* 18 Feb app 61 ceKY, Like a great many others ignorant of facts, he finds "a nigger in the wood pile" where there is neither wood pile nor nigger. 1903 DN 2.322 seMO, *Nigger in the woodpile*. . . An expression implying concealment. 'I suspicioned there was a nigger in the woodpile when I saw them colloquing together.' 1907 DN 3.233 nwAR, *Nigger in the woodpile*. . . Something concealed. 1909 DN 3.352 eAL, wGA, *Nigger in the wood-pile*. . . Some concealed purpose or reason. 'I thought there must be some nigger in the wood-pile.' Very common. 1912 DN 3.583 wIN, *Nigger in the wood-pile*. . . A treacherous, faithless person in the transaction. "As soon as he told me that, I knew there was a nigger in the wood-pile somewheres." 1927 *AmSp* 2.361 cwWV, *Nigger in the woodpile*. . . some secret in the matter. "You may be sure the nigger in that woodpile will soon come out." 1958 *Humphrey Home from the Hill* 286 neTX, Then the baby, which even Fred acknowledged to be ahead of decent schedule, though he was pleased to think that he himself was the nigger in the woodpile. 1965–70 DARE (Qu. V1, *When you suspect that somebody is trying to deceive you, or that something is going on behind your back*. . . "There's _____.") 336 Infs, **widespread**, [A] nigger in the woodpile (somewhere or someplace); LA28, OR16, VA42, WY11, [A] nigger in a woodpile; LA2, TN24, [A] dead nigger in the woodpile; KY90, [A] nigger behind the woodpile; KY85, [A] nigger in the brush pile; KY59,

[A] nigger in the woodshed; (Qu. JJ19, *If somebody has dishonest intentions, or is up to no good*. . . "I think he's got _____.") Infs DE1, MO13, OH45, OR4, 14, [A] nigger in the woodpile. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, cnTN, Nigger in the woodpile—something strange happens.

b Spec: a degree of Black ancestry in one who is apparently White.

1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance* ([Of a white person] with one black grandparent . . . one black great-grandparent) 1 inf, neTN, Nigger in the woodpile—a remote black ancestor; 3 infs, LA, AR, Nigger in the woodpile; 1 inf, swGA, Dead nigger in the woodpile. 1991 DARE File eTN (as of 1950s), I recall the expression "nigger in the woodpile" being used of white people with some suspiciously negroid physical feature implying the possibility of that person having had a Black ancestor, like saying of someone that they have "a touch of the tar brush."

2 An illegitimate child.

[1958 see 1a above.] 1968 DARE (Qu. Z11b, . . . [A child whose parents were not married]) Inf MD5, Nigger in the woodpile. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance* (*Bastard*) 2 infs, MS, Nigger in the woodpile.

nigger jigger See **nigger killer** 3

nigger killer n

1 also *negro killer, nigger choker*: A dark-skinned variety of sweet potato. chiefly S Atl, AL Cf **choker** 2

1855 *Davis Farm Bk.* 140 (DA) AL, Planted out in rows 7 bushels of Spanish potatoes & in the bed 10 Spanish—5 Negro killers & 23 of Yams. 1916 *Massey Reminiscences* 22 swAL, Yams, Spanish, white and red (called "nigger killers") potatoes were grown in abundance and put up. c1940 *Eliason Word Lists FL* 10, *Niggerkiller*: A species of sweet potatoes that have a purple skin, and when cooked are very dry and mealy. 1956 *Rayford Whistlin' Woman* 33 swAL, Sweet potatoes were called "nigger killers." They had purple skins and stringy white meat. 1959 *McAtee Oddments* 5 cNC, *Nigger-choker*. . . a sweet potato (or yam) low in moisture and sugar content, and therefore, hard to swallow. 1966–70 DARE (Qu. I9, . . . *Names [including nicknames] for potatoes*) Inf FL37, Nigger chokers—sweet potatoes; AL30, Nigger killers; FL49, Used to have a long blue-skinned white potato called nigger killer; no longer grown; chokes the niggers to death. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, ceGA, Nigger killer—sweet potato with purple skin; 1 inf, neFL, Nigger killer—large [sweet potato]; red outside, white inside; 1 inf, swAL, Nigger killer—sweet potato; 1 inf, cWAR, Nigger killer—a kind of yam; 1 inf, seGA, Nigger killer—a dry kind of potato; 1 inf, ceGA, Nigger killer potatoes; 1 inf, nwFL, Nigger killer(s)—dark, red-skinned; 1 inf, ceGA, Nigger choker—a big-old potato; 1 inf, ceTN, Nigger chokers—red Spanish sweet potatoes.

2 A *vinegarone* (here: *Mastigoproctus giganteus*).

1886 *Entomol. Amer.* 2.39, *T[helyphonus] giganteus*. . . is found quite frequently in the Southern States, where it is much feared by the people who call it Nigger Killer, Mule Killer, Grampus, etc. 1890 *Century Dict.* 3990 FL, *Nigger-killer*. . . The whip-tailed scorpion.

3 also *nigger jigger, ~ sticker*: A large pocketknife.

1967–69 DARE (Qu. F39, *A large pocket knife with blades that fold in and out*) Inf SC51, Nigger jigger; SC62, Nigger killer; NY210, Nigger sticker. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, cAL, Nigger stickers—big, wicked, mean looking.

4 See **nigger-shooter**.

nigger-knocker n

A *pigfish* (here: *Orthopristis chrysopterus*).

a1883 (1911) *Bagby VA Gentleman* 131, Another name for the nigger-knocker is hogfish, and it is by far the ugliest tenant of the Virginia waters.

nigger leg n

=**nigger killer** 1.

1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, swMS, Nigger leg—purple peeling, long, sweet potato.

nigger lice n MD Cf **beggar's lice**

Usu a **burdock** 1, but also **tick trefoil**; also the prickly seed or fruit of either of these plants.

1933 *Sun* (Baltimore MD) 11 Sep 6/7 (*Hench Coll.*), What great clumps of "nigger lice," splendoring the landscape with its rich lavender bloom! 1940 *Mencken Happy Days* 43 Baltimore MD (as of c1890), Sometimes a black-hearted boy would sneak into the adjacent brickyard,

which was covered in large part with Jimson weeds, plantains and other such vegetable outlaws, and return with a large ball of nigger-lice. [Footnote:] The burrs of the common burdock (*Arctium minus*). 1946 *Sun* (Baltimore MD) 2 Oct 12/3 (Hench Coll.), I meant no offense to the members of the Negro race when I spoke the other day of "nigger lice." I was referring to the tick trefoil, its scientific name, which is commonly spoken of by everybody as I gave it in my former piece. 1968 *DARE* (Qu. S13, . . . *A common wild bush with bunches of round, prickly seeds; when they get dry they stick to your clothing*) Inf MD9, Nigger lice.

niggerlip n

A **surfp perch** (here: *Rhacochilus toxotes*).

1953 Roedel *Common Fishes CA* 107, Rubberlip Perch—*Rhacochilus toxotes*. . . Lips exceedingly thick. . . Unauthorized Names: Pile perch, porgy, niggerlip.

niggerlip cat n Also niggerlips

=eel catfish.

1878 U.S. Natl. Museum *Bulletin* 12.72 cTN, Nigger-lip Cat. 1908 Forbes-Richardson *Fishes of IL* 179, *Ictalurus anguilla*. . . is sometimes called "nigger-lips" by the fishermen.

nigger liquor n Also nigger gin, ~ whiskey Cf nigger heel 2

Bad liquor, esp when illegally distilled. 1929 *AmSp* 4.387 KS, *Nigger gin*. . . means any sort of inferior synthetic gin. 1967–68 *DARE* (Qu. DD21b, *General words . . . for bad liquor*) Inf TX11, Nigger whiskey; (Qu. DD28b, . . . *Fermented drinks . . . made at home*) Inf GA30, Nigger liquor—made with yeast and wheat bran. 1969 *DARE* Tape GA72, That kind of whiskey [=that made in a deadman still] is something I've never made in my life. . . It is made out of the siftings of wheat. . . This is bolted and sifted 'til actually there's none of the heart of the grain left in it, it's nothing but the shuck of the grain . . . and they cook that in this box. . . That is what is called nigger liquor. I can't think of a nigger. . . who'd want to drink this stuff. It's very mean. 1974 Dabney *Mountain Spirits* 107 (as of 1920s), In the black ghettos of Chicago, Washington, and New York's Harlem, "nigger gin," a low grade moonshine, sold for ten to fifteen cents a drink, but it was "awful tastin'." *Ibid* 225, Some of the redneck distillers, who know their product is destined for the black ghettos, seem to get a perverse pleasure in making their liquor as mean as possible. If it's an "especially good run", they'll share some of it with their friends. But most of it is what they call "nigger lick" which they ship off to Atlanta and to bootleggers of black ghettos in smaller cities.

nigger local n

In railroading: see *quots*.

1916 *DN* 4.356 [Railroad terms], *Nigger local*. A local freight train involving very hard work. 1969 *AmSp* 44.250 [Railroad terms], A fast freight is a *hotshot*, and a slow one . . . a *nigger local*. On the Rock Island, the nigger local is a slow train that runs . . . from Chicago to Peoria on Saturday nights only. In the days when riding the rails was more common, blacks frequently travelled on weekend freight trains to Peoria.

nigger loon n Also nigger turkey Cf niggergoose 3

=anhinga. 1955 *AmSp* 30.180, All of the other terms relating to man embody the opprobrious [sic] term *nigger*; but recording them here should not be taken in a bad sense by anyone. Such appellations invariably refer to the blackish or black coloration. . . *Nigger turkey* for this species [=Anhinga anhinga] also is heard in Louisiana, and *nigger loon* in Illinois.

nigger luck n Also free nigger luck Cf mother luck

Good luck, esp when unexpected.

1851 (1874) Glisan *Jrl. Army Life* 90 KY, I occasionally make him a little envious by my nigger-luck, as he is pleased to term it. 1870 *Harte Luck Roaring Camp* 31 CA, When a man gets a streak of luck,—nigger luck,—he don't get tired. 1909 *DN* 3.352 eAL, wGA, *Nigger-luck*. . . Fortunate chance. "You can't beat me playing dominoes. It's jest your nigger-luck that gets away with me." 1947 Chalfant *Gold 7 CA* (as of 1849), Mac [=a prospector from the east] told them their judgement was "free nigger luck, that and nothing more." 1966 *DARE* (Qu. HH30, *Things that are nicknamed for different nationalities—for example, a 'Dutch treat'*) Inf AR12, Nigger luck.

niggerly See nigger n²

niggermouth n

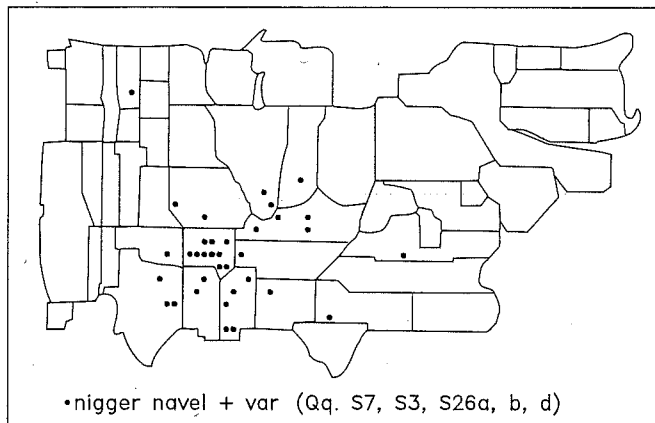
=jewbush.

1942 Amer. Joint Comm. Horticult. Nomenclature *Std. Plant Names*

607, *Pedilanthus . . . tithymaloides* . . . Redbird S[lipperflower] (Jewbush; Niggermouth).

nigger navel n Also nigger's navel chiefly Lower Missip Valley See Map =black-eyed Susan 2.

1942 Hall *Smoky Mt. Speech* 99 wNC, eTN, *Navel* ['neibəl] (usual); ['nigəz 'neibəl] 'Black-eyed Susan'. 1949 *PADS* 11.9 wTX (as of 1911–29), *Nigger navel*, *nigger toe*: . . A species of flower having a black button on top of a tall stem. *Nigger navel* is much more common than *nigger toe*. 1960 Criswell *Resp. to PADS* 20 Ozarks, Black-eyed Susan; commoner terms: nigger head, nigger navel (pron. *navel*). 1965–70 *DARE* (Qu. S7, *A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center, that grows along roadsides in late summer*) 18 Infs, chiefly Lower Missip Valley, Nigger navel; AR56, KY9, 77, 89, LA16, TN26, TX52, Nigger navel; AR51, 52, 55, Nigger navel [laughter]; KY63, Nigger navel—some say; becoming old-fashioned; LA2, Nigger navel—larger than field daisy or black-eyed Susan; GA46, Nigger nabels [FW: used by Inf's first-grade pupils]; (Qu. S3) Inf MO39, Nigger navel; (Qu. S26a, . . . *Wildflowers. . . Roadside flowers*) Inf IL119, Nigger navel; (Qu. S26b, *Wildflowers that grow in water or wet places*) Inf OK42, Nigger navel; (Qu. S26d, *Wildflowers that grow in meadows*; not asked in early QRs) Inf IL95, Nigger navels.



nigger news n

Gossip.

1859 in 1956 Eliason *Tarheel Talk* 150 cNC, The family . . . depend upon Is . . . to supply me with the latest *nigger news*. c1960 Wilson Coll. csKY, *Nigger news*. . . Gossip, scuttlebutt, just such news as a servant might hint to her employer.

nigger night n Also niggers' night Cf nigger day 2

Saturday night. 1928 Ruppenthal Coll. KS, *Nigger night*. . . Saturday night. 1942 Berrey–Van den Bark *Amer. Slang* 604 [Miscellaneous theatrical terms], *Nigger night*, Saturday night. 1965 *DARE* File, *Niggers' night* = Saturday night. Used by my grandmother from Keene, N.H. (where there must have been very few Negroes). Her advice (this in Athol, Mass., where there were no negroes—or perhaps one): "Don't go uptown on Saturday night—it's niggers' night." 1968 Moody *Coming of Age MS* 261 [Black], Saturday night is Nigger Night all over Mississippi.

nigger nose n

A black-eyed Susan 2.

1967 *DARE* (Qu. S7, *A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center, that grows along roadsides in late summer*) Inf IL25, Nigger nose.

nigger nut n Cf nigger heel 5, niggertoe 1

The Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*). 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance Gulf Region*, 1 inf, Nigger nuts—Brazil nuts—not raised locally; 1 inf, Nigger nuts—black nuts—white inside; 1 inf, Nigger nuts—not supposed to say.

nigger off See nigger v 1

nigger over See nigger v 2

†nigger pancake n Cf meadow muffin

1968 *DARE* (Qu. L17, . . . *Names . . . for manure used in the fields: [Also joking names]*) Inf NY87, Nigger pancake.

nigger pile *n* Cf monkey pile

=buck buck 2.

1994 DARE File (as of 1970s), [What do you call it when a bunch of kids pile on top of each other?] This was a game the boys, no girls, played where I grew up—northeast Alabama, at the end of the Appalachians. It was called [blush] “nigger-pile.” *Ibid* Akron OH (as of 1950s), Nigger Pile.

nigger-pill *n*

A hackberry (here: *Celtis occidentalis*).

1940 Clute *Amer. Plant Names* 164, *C[eltis] occidentalis* . . nigger-pill.

nigger pine *n*

1 =Jersey pine. chiefly C and Mid Atl, sAppalachians

1897 Sudworth *Arborescent Flora* 27 NC, *Pinus virginiana* . . Scrub Pine. . . Nigger Pine. 1908 Britton *N. Amer. Trees* 47, It [=Jersey pine] is also called by many other names, as Scrub pine . . Nigger pine . . and Shortshucks. 1950 Peattie *Nat. Hist. Trees* 27, Virginia Scrub Pine—*Pinus virginiana* . . Other Names: Jersey, Nigger, or River Pine. 1965–70 DARE (Qu. T17, . . . *Kinds of pine trees*; not asked in early QRs) Infs MD24, NJ16, 21, PA17, TN22, Nigger pine; GA76, Nigger pine, short-needle pine—same; MD29, Nigger pine—same as jack pine; NC37, Jack or nigger pine; TN41, Nigger pine—limbs start at ground. 1981 Pederson *LAGS Basic Materials*, 1 inf, cTN, Colored pine (also called nigger pine); 1 inf, cTN, Nigger pine.

2 =loblolly pine 1. Cf blackjack pine 3, longleaf ~ 2, slash ~

1981 Pederson *LAGS Basic Materials*, 1 inf, neGA, Slash pine—also called nigger pine; 1 inf, cNGA, Nigger pine = blackjack pine. 1992 DARE File eNC, I’m writing . . on the current cultural status of longleaf pines. Someone reported having heard them called “nigger pines.”

nigger pole *n* LA Cf nigger fish *v* phr

A simple fishing pole.

1967 LeCompte *Word Atlas* seLA, (*Fishing pole made of bamboo and string*) 11 infs [of 21], Nigger pole. 1968 DARE (Qu. P13, . . . *Ways of fishing* . . . *besides the ordinary hook and line*) Inf LA20, Nigger pole—the ordinary hook and line is called ‘nigger pole’; LA26, Nigger pole—simple rig with line and hook; LA34, Nigger pole—simple outfit with pole and string. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, seLA, Nigger pole—bamboo fishing pole.

nigger prick See nigger dick

nigger quail *n*

A meadowlark 1 (here: *Sturnella magna*).

1956 *AmSp* 31.181, Most of the monickers [for birds] in this division are derisive in another way, attaching the name of some race to a bird deemed inferior as food or game. Examples are: . . Nigger goose—Cormorants . . Nigger quail—Eastern meadow lark—Ala., Texas. 1970 DARE (Qu. Q15, . . . *Kinds of larks*) Inf TX101, Nigger quail—same as field lark . . negroes eat them—they’re size of quail.

nigger rich *adj* phr

Foolishly or vulgarly extravagant.

1930 Gowen *True Exposé Racketeers* 81 (*Tamony Coll.*), In those sections of the South where the old traditions of gentle birth and culture still assert their ancient authority and draw the lines of social demarcation, there is commonly in use a vivid, brutal phrase to describe ostentatious display by the merely vulgar wealthy. The phrase is ‘nigger rich.’ c1930 Swann *Lang. Circus* Lot 13, *Nigger rich*: One who spends money foolishly. 1941 Corle *Desert Country* 49, There is in the temperament of the American Negro . . the urge and desire to burst forth from a more or less restricted social status into kingship—into being Caesar, czar, sultan, dictator. The stultified ego has, naturally, a tendency to express the counterpart. This manifestation of the human psyche has led to the vernacular expression “nigger rich.” 1968–70 DARE (Qu. U37, . . . *Somebody who has plenty of money*) Inf CA113, Nigger rich—somebody who’s just made a lot and is flashing it around—common word here; (Qu. W40, . . . *A woman who overdresses or . . spends too much on clothes*) Inf KS12, Nigger rich; (Qu. HH35, *A woman who puts on a lot of airs*: “She’s too _____ for me.”) Inf PA245, Nigger rich—acting like she just got rich but it’s only a few bucks. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, nwMS, Nigger rich—making money, spending it immediately. 1995 DARE File KY, [*Nigger rich*] refers to the racist notion that when black . . people get a paycheck they have lots of money but they quickly spend it. Thus to be “nigger-rich” is to have an infusion of money. *Ibid*, [*Nigger rich*] is a racial slur, but not about slaveowning. If you’re used to having lots of money, and you find \$5

on the sidewalk, it’s no big deal; but if you win the lottery, you’re rich. If you’re used to getting by on next to nothing, and you find \$5 on the sidewalk, you suddenly *feel* rich.

nigger rig *v* phr, hence ppl *adj* nigger rigged, *vbl* *n* nigger rigging Cf nigger *v* 3

To make or repair (something) poorly or without proper materials; hence *n* nigger rig(ging) a makeshift.

1965 DARE FW Addit OK, *Nigger-rigged*—rigging, etc., put together or repaired quickly and poorly. Inf says term is not used much anymore. “Now it has to be called ‘Southern Gentleman’s Engineering.’” 1969 DARE (Qu. HH30, *Things that are nicknamed for different nationalities—for example, a ‘Dutch treat’*) Inf TX68, Nigger rig—anything poorly constructed. 1979 *Antioch Rev.* 37.58 MS, Don’t it beat all for raising a shoat in a nigger-rigged crib? 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance* (*What might you call a makeshift lamp made with a rag, bottle, and kerosene*) 1 inf, neMS, Nigger rigging. 1991 DARE File wKS, A friend of mine in Topeka asked his landlord to come in and fix his commode, which wouldn’t stop “running.” The landlord, not having the necessary part, fixed it with a coat hanger. A few days later a friend of my friend, originally from west Kansas, came over to the apartment and when she saw what the landlord had done said, “Oh, he nigger rigged it.” 1994 *Ibid* Akron OH (as of 1950s), The N-word showed up in a lot of places back home among the hillbillies (which is to say, us). To Nigger-rig was to improvise. . . as in “I had to nigger-rig that exhaust system, Cletus.” 1995 *Ibid* MS (as of c1950s), “His car broke down, but he managed to nigger-rig it enough to get back to town.” “Your fan is working again?” “Yeah, but it’s just nigger-rigged.” “He did a good job of nigger-rigging it.”

nigger runner *n*

1953 Randolph-Wilson *Down in Holler* 266 Ozarks, *Nigger runner*. . . A fox chaser of a trashy, ignorant type; such a man knows nothing of the fine points of a foxhound, and real fox hunters don’t like to associate with him.

nigger’s hair *n* Cf nigger hair, niggerwool
=ditch grass 2.

1909 DN 3.414 nME, *Nigger’s hair*. . . A kind of wild grass growing in swampy places. The same as *devil’s guts*.

nigger’s heaven See nigger heaven 1

nigger-shooter *n* Also *nigger-chaser*, ~-killer chiefly Gulf States, TX

A slingshot.

1876 in 1969 PADS 52.53 seLL, I had a job on hand making Nigger shooters for Dr’s children. 1883 Sweet-Knox *Mexican Mustang* 339 TX, Just about the time people have got used to tops buzzing about their ears, the “nigger-shooter” mania breaks out. 1909 DN 3.352 eAL, wGA, *Nigger-shooter*. . . A slingshot. 1915 DN 4.227 wTX, *Nigger-shooter*. . . A sort of sling shot, composed of a wooden handle and two rubber bands ending in a leather “pocket” from which stones are shot. Every boy in Texas is proficient in its use. 1940 Wilson *Wabash* 318 IN, It is barefoot boys on country roads, with nigger-killers dangling from the pockets of their overalls and strings of “yeller catfish” slung over their shoulders. 1941 O’Donnell *Great Big Doorstep* 2 sLA, ‘Let me try!’ Evvie whispered. ‘Give me the nigger-shooter.’ 1961 *Folk Word Atlas N. LA* map 1306, Boy’s weapon made of rubber strips on a forked stick . . nigger shooter 46% [of 275 QRs] . . others 3% bean shooter, nigger killer, sling. 1965 *Western Folkl.* 24.192 KS, A forked stick, rubber bands, and an “apron” cut from an old shoe-tongue which could be used to project marble-sized stones with considerable force and accuracy and was most commonly known as a “nigger shooter,” . . and . . as a slingshot. 1965 DARE FW Addit ceOK, A “nigger shooter” has one solid piece of rubber from post to post. 1967 DARE FW Addit TX, *Nigger-shooter*—name in Texas for what I call a sling shot. Device for shooting rocks or marbles, made with two strips of rubber, a piece of leather and a forked stick. 1968 Moody *Coming of Age* MS 16 [Black], Ed made us a “niggershooter” each. This was a little slingshot made out of a piece of leather connected to a forked stick by a thin slab of rubber. 1970 Tarpley *Blinky* 231 neTX, A favorite boyhood weapon . . is constructed by attaching two rubber strips to a forked stick. The majority of informants call this weapon a *nigger-shooter*. . . Another name . . is *nigger-killer*. 1970 DARE (Qu. F49) Inf TX85, Nigger shooter—a rubber band used to shoot at birds. 1983 *Capital Times* (Madison WI) 9 Aug 1/6 TX, [He] also reportedly referred to sling-shots as “nigger-shooters.” 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance* Gulf Region, 11 infs, *Nigger-shooter(s)* = (homemade) slingshot(s). 1994 DARE File cNOH (as of 1920s), In Akron, I remember, a slingshot

was called a *nigger-chaser*, but it may not have been the general term and there were many Southerners around. The term was also applied to a type of firework that whizzed along the ground.

niggers in a blanket *n* Also *nigger in a blanket*

See quotes.

1941 Writers' Program *Guide LA* 229, Blackberries cooked in pastry turnovers are known as "niggers in a blanket." 1944 Adams *Western Words* 104, *Nigger-in-a-blanket*—A cowboy dessert, usually made of raisins in dough.

nigger's navel See *nigger navel*

nigger's night See *nigger night*

nigger's pipe *n* Cf *devil's snuff*, ~ *snuffbox* 1

Prob a *puffball*.

1969 *DARE* (Qu. S18, *A kind of mushroom that grows like a globe . . . sometimes gets as big as a man's head*) Inf KY40, *Nigger's pipe*—old-fashioned.

nigger sticker See *nigger killer* 3

nigger teats See *nigger tits*

niggerthumb *n*

A *black-eyed Susan* 2 (here: *Rudbeckia occidentalis*).

1936 McDougall-Baggeley *Plants of Yellowstone* 128, *Niggerthumb* (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*). 1963 Craighead *Rocky Mt. Wildflowers* 225, Western Coneflower—*Rudbeckia occidentalis*. . . Other names: *Niggerthumb*, *Niggerhead*.

nigger tits *n* Also *nigger teats*

=*black-eyed Susan* 2.

1903 Small *Flora SE U.S.* 1427, *R[udbeckia] bicolor* . . . *Nigger-teats*.

1945 McAtee *Nomina Abiteria* 15, Cone-flower (*Rudbeckia* sp.)—*Nigger-tit* (Texas Panhandle). 1950 Gray-Fernald *Manual of Botany* 1484, *R[udbeckia] bicolor* . . . *Nigger-teats*. . . disk blackish, hemispherical, becoming conical. 1967 LeCompte *Word Atlas* 236 *seLA*, *Black eyed susans* . . . *nigger tits* [5 of 21 infs]. 1968–70 *DARE* (Qu. S7, *A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center; that grows along roadsides in late summer*) Infs KY75, LA20, 43, *Nigger tit*, MO4, *Nigger tits*. 1969 *DARE* FW Addit MO, I suspect she [=Inf MO15, who gave resps *niggerhead* and *nigger navel* to Qu. S7] wouldn't give what they were most commonly called: *nigger tits*.

niggertoe *n*

1 also *negro toe*: The Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*). Cf

nigger heel 5, **nigger nut**

1896 DN 1.421 NY, *nOH*, *sePA*, *Nigger toes*: for Brazil nuts. 1906 DN 3.148 *nwAR*, *Nigger-heel*, *nigger-toe*—Brazil nut. 1909 DN 3.353 *eAL*, *wGA*, *Nigger-toe*. . . The Brazil nut: so called because of its dark rough shell. Never called *negro-toe*. 1915 DN 4.227 *wTX*, *Nigger-toes*. 1918 DN 5.19 NC, *Nigger-toe*. 1922 DN 5.171 *AR*, *NE*, *NY*, *Nigger-toes*. 1949 *PADS* 11.9 *wTX* (as of 1911–29), *Nigger-toe*. 1950 *PADS* 14.49 SC, *Nigger toe*. 1951 *PADS* 15.58 *neIN* (as of 1890s), *Nigger-toe*. 1965 *Western Folk.* 24.193 KS, The name "nigger toes" [was] applied to one of the types of nuts which enriched our Christmas stockings; it was long before I discovered that properly they were Brazil nuts. 1967 *DARE* Tape AL15, [FW:] What sort of things did you used to get for Christmas? [Inf:] We didn't get too much. Just a little fruit, a few nuts . . . *nigger toes*, we called 'em. They were Brazil nuts. 1967–69 *DARE* FW Addits ID, IA, MN, *Niggertoes*—Brazil nuts. 1976 Garber *Mountain-ese* 61 *sAppalachians*, We cracked a pound uv *nigger-toes* and a pound uv *warnuts*. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance Gulf Region*, 49 infs, *Niggertoe(s)*—Brazil nut; 37 infs, *Niggertoes*; 2 infs, *Niggertoes*—Brazil nuts, *butternuts*; 1 inf, *Niggertoes*—cream nuts; 1 inf, *Negro toe*—face-tious; 1 inf, *Negro toe*—Brazil nut. 1994 *DARE* File, When I was serving in the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C. in 1964, I asked a Black serviceman friend of mine what Blacks called the nuts I knew as "niggertoes." He replied, "We call them 'niggertoes,' just like you do!"

2 A *gaillardia* B (here: *Gaillardia pulchella*).

1898 *Jrl. Amer. Folk.* 11.229 KS, *Gaillardia pulchella* . . . *niggertoe*.

3 *us pl*: A *brodiaea* such as *blue dicks*. esp CA

1908 Johnson *Highways Pacific Coast* 143 *nCA*, There were multi-tudes of delicate bluebells, and there were "nigger toes" and "pop-corn" and dainty snowdrops and "little Johnnies" and many more. 1938 MacFarland et al. *Garden Bulbs* 176, Although native to the western part of our own country, *Brodiaeas* are little known to eastern gardeners. The Indians of the West Coast call the bulbs "nigger-toes." 1968 *DARE*

File *swCA*, *Niggertoes*—another name for blue *brodiaea*. 1969 *DARE* (Qu. S23, *Pale blue flowers with downy leaves and cups that come up on open, stony hillsides in March or early April*) Inf CA117, *Nigger-toes*—a beautiful little flower; (Qu. S26a, . . . *Wildflowers*. . . *Roadside flowers*) Inf CA127, *Niggertoes*.

4 A *prickly pear* (here: *Opuntia fragilis*).

1926 *Torrey* 26.6, *Opuntia pes-corvi* . . . *Nigger-toes*, Sapelo Id., Ga.

5 Any of var *coneflowers*, esp *black-eyed Susan* 2. chiefly S Midl, TX Cf *niggerhead* 3b, 3k, 3l

1936 Whitehouse *TX Flowers* 173, *Ratibida columnaris* . . . is also called . . . *niggertoe*. . . It is a very handsome plant. 1949 [see *nigger navel*]. 1965–70 *DARE* (Qu. S7, *A kind of daisy, bright yellow with a dark center; that grows along roadsides in late summer*) Infs KY11, LA33, MO35, NC55, TX27, 28, 29, *Niggertoe(s)*; TX68, *Niggerhead* or *niggertoe*; (Qu. S26a, . . . *Wildflowers*. . . *Roadside flowers*) Infs CA127, TX28, *Niggertoes*; (Qu. S26c, *Wildflowers that grow in woods*) Inf IL19, *Niggertoes* (has dark center); (Qu. S26d, *Wildflowers that grow in meadows*; not asked in early QRs) Inf KY11, *Niggertoes*. 1967–68 *DARE* Tape TX28, *Niggertoes*, which I think are sometimes called *Indian paint*; LA33, We have native Louisiana flowers growing here. . . *Detonia* is a very beautiful little flower that's . . . two shades of orange; they look a little bit like the *niggertoes* that I told you about . . . only the color is different and the foliage is different and they grow higher. 1969 *DARE* FW Addit *cnNC*, *Nigger toes*—a flower, possibly a *black-eyed Susan*. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, *cnGA*, *Niggertoes*—orange-colored flower; black center.

6 Any of var nuts, but esp the fruit of the *butternut* 1. Cf *nigger heel* 5

1967 *DARE* (Qu. I43) Inf KS4, *Niggertoes*: a large, round, hard nut.

1981 Pederson *LAGS Basic Materials Gulf Region*, 3 infs, *Niggertoes*—*butternuts*; 2 infs, *Niggertoes*—Brazil nuts, *butternuts*; 1 inf, *Nigger-toes*—filberts; 1 inf, *Niggertoes*—black with hard shells, round; 1 inf, *Butternut, niggertoes*—looks like a coconut, has an orange square at top.

7 also abbr *toe*: A small, chocolate-coated candy; also a lico-rice drop. esp S Midl Cf *niggerhead* 7

1966–69 *DARE* (Qu. H82a, *Cheap candies sold especially for school-children*) Inf WV3, *Niggertoes*—small chocolate drops, cream-filled; (Qu. H82b, *Kinds of cheap candy that used to be sold years ago*) Infs KY22, MO20, *Niggertoes*; KY41, MO3, *Niggertoes*—chocolate drops; MO19, *Niggertoes*—coconut-filled, with chocolate outside; NC37, *Niggertoes*—white cream with chocolate; NY206, *Niggertoes*—little drops of licorice; TN5, *Niggertoes*—same as chocolate cream drops. 1982 Mason *Shiloh* 95 *wKY*, Now he asked, "Who bought these 'toes'?" He would no longer say "niggertoes," the old name for the chocolate-covered creams. 1986 Pederson *LAGS Concordance*, 1 inf, *nwGA*, *Nigger-toes*—small pieces of chocolate candy.

8 also *negro toe rock*: See quotes. Cf *niggerhead* 1

1935 Hyatt *Folk. Adams Co. IL* 393, I never cook white beans unless I drop three negro toe rocks (*small black rocks*) in them to cook. It makes them so much better. You can always go out and pick them up out of the gravel. And I never use the same three rocks over three times. 1968–69 *DARE* (Qu. C25, . . . *Kinds of stone . . . about . . . size of a person's head*), *smooth and hard*) Inf IL71, *Niggertoe*—geodes, break open to get crystals inside; KS8, *Niggertoes*—in old days.

9 A man's sharp-pointed shoe.

1967 *DARE* (Qu. W42a, . . . *Nicknames . . . for men's sharp-pointed shoes*) Infs MI70, PA42, *Niggertoes*.

10 also *nigger heel*: A type of firework. Cf *nigger chaser*

1966–67 *DARE* (Qu. FF14, . . . *Kinds of firecrackers*) Infs AL37, MI16, *Niggertoes*; OH37, *Nigger heels*.

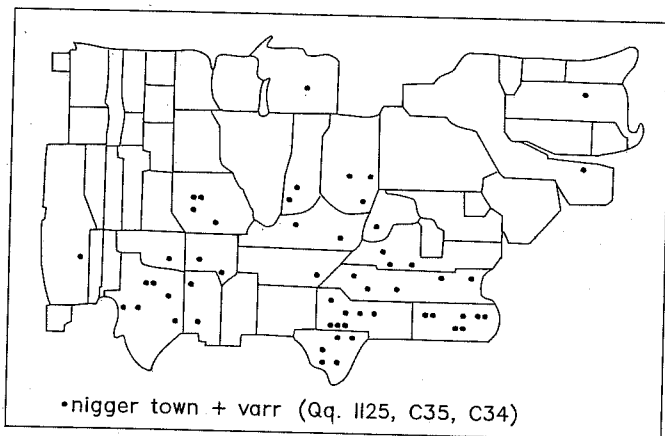
nigger-toed adj *phr*

1968 *DARE* (Qu. X37, . . . *Words . . . to describe people's legs if they're noticeably bent, or uneven, or not right*) Inf MD29, *Nigger-toed*—toes point out.

nigger town *n* Also *niggerville* chiefly Sth, S Midl See Map A Black neighborhood or district.

1857 Helper *Impending Crisis* 18, Like all other *niggervilles* in our disreputable part of the confederacy, the commercial emporium of South Carolina is sick and impoverished. 1942 Berrey–Van den Bark *Amer. Slang* 47.5, *Negro district*. . . *Niggertown*. 1945 Saxon *Gumbo Ya-Ya* 240 LA, Every big plantation was like a little ole *nigger town*, there was so many of us. 1958 Humphrey *Home from the Hill* 122 *neTX*, The band had been rounded up in *niggertown*. 1959 *Kenyon Rev.* 21.415

TN, Two white people passing each other on some desolate back street in the toughest part of nigger-town, each wondering what dire circumstances could have brought so nice a looking person as the other to this unlikely neighborhood. 1965 Little *Autobiog.* Malcolm X 148, Every Negro that lives in a city has seen the type a thousand times, the Northern cracker who will go to visit "niggertown," to be amused at "the coons." 1965-70 DARE (Qu. II25, Names or nicknames for the part of a town where the poorer people, special groups, or foreign groups live) 34 Infs, chiefly Sth, S Midl, Nigger town; LA23, Niggerville; (Qu. C35, Nicknames for the different parts of your town or city) 23 Infs, scattered, but esp Sth, S Midl, Nigger town; FL27, West Niggertown; LA23, Niggerville; (Qu. C34, Nicknames for nearby settlements, villages, or districts) Inf MA53, Nigger town. 1986 Pederson LAGS Concordance Gulf Region, 20 infs, Nigger town.



nigger turkey See **nigger loon**

nigger up See **nigger v 2**

niggerville See **nigger town**

Nigger War n

The Civil War.

1943 LANE Map 551 (*The Civil War*) 1 inf, ceME, Abolition War, Nigger War, Abe Lincoln War; 1 inf, seNH, Abolition War, older term; Lincoln's Nigger War . . . also used; 1 inf, nwCT, A Nigger War—that's virtually what it was.

niggerweed n [Prob from the dark color]

1 A boneset 1 (here: *Eupatorium purpureum*).

1894 Jrl. Amer. Folkl. 7.92 IN, *Eupatorium purpureum*, nigger-weed, queen-of-the-meadow. 1967 Fetterman *Stinking Creek* 70 seKY, We call it niggerweed or sometimes iron blood. Dig the roots. It makes your iron blood. 1974 (1977) Coon *Useful Plants* 108, *Eupatorium purpureum* . . . niggerweed.

2 A blue curls 1 (here: *Trichostema lanceolatum*).

1911 CA Ag. Exper. Sta. Berkeley *Bulletin* 217.1022, *Trichostema lanceolatum* [sic]. . . Nigger Weed (San Bernardino County). . . The bulk of this honey goes to biscuit manufacturers.

nigger whiskey See **nigger liquor**

niggerwool n

1 A sedge (here: *Carex filifolia*). [See quotes 1894, 1950] esp Upper MW Cf wool grass

1894 Jrl. Amer. Folkl. 7.103 NE, *Carex*, sp., nigger-wool. . . From the blackish color of the leaves at the base. 1935 Sandoz *Jules* 20 wNE (as of 1880-1930), Where the occasional sunflower along the soldier trail reached to his shoulder, he sank his spade two blades deep through the tough nigger-wool-sod. 1937 U.S. Forest Serv. *Range Plant Hdbk.* GL5, Threadleaf sedge, sometimes called niggerwool, . . . is a small grasslike plant. . . Its many, black, fibrous roots are very tough and wiry and form a heavy sod which is highly resistant to heavy trampling. 1950 Stevens *ND Plants* 95, *Carex filifolia*. . . "Niggerwool." *Ibid* 96, The name "niggerwool" refers to black, kinky roots which are conspicuous when sod is turned over and are resistant to decay. 1952 FWP *Guide SD* 83, *Nigger wool*: a grass with tough fibrous roots that resist decay.

2 =ditch grass 2. Cf **nigger's hair**

1913 *Torreya* 13.226 LA, *Ruppia maritima* . . . Nigger-wool, Chef Menteur, La. 1921 LA Dept. of Conserv. *Bulletin* 10.47, Widgeon-grass (*Ruppia maritima*), or niggerwool, . . . is eaten by gadwalls, widgeons

and other ducks. 1935 *AmSp* 10.80, With its hills, hollows, and swamps, southeast Missouri is well adapted to propagation of the *Podunk* idea. . . Although one section is definitely referred to as *Swampeast* Missouri, not far away are some of the wild and woolly parts of the Ozarks. Emerging from *Nigger-Wool Swamp*, one is likely to find himself in the vicinity of *Gobbler's Knob*, or *Goose-Pond Hill*. 1951 *PADS* 15.27 TX, *Ruppia maritima*. . . Duck grass, nigger wool.

3 =musk grass.

1913 *Torreya* 13.225 NC, *Chara* sp. . . nigger-wool, Currutuck Sound, N.C.

4 A hornwort 1 (here: *Ceratophyllum demersum*).

1926 *Torreya* 26.5 LA, *Ceratophyllum demersum* . . . Nigger wool, Mississippi Delta, La. 1940 Clute *Amer. Plant Names* 255, *Ceratophyllum demersum*. Nigger wool.

5 See quot.

1986 Pederson LAGS Concordance, 1 inf, seAR, Niggerwool—on a hog—can't be scraped off.

niggra See **nigra**

nigguh, niggur See **nigger n¹**

nigh adv, prep, adj Also sp *ni*

A As adv.

1 In close proximity in space or time; near, close; hence prep phrr *nigh to*, rarely *nigh onto* close to. chiefly S Midl Note: Some of the glossary quotes given here may belong instead (or also) at B below. Cf **anigh**

1867 Harris *Sut Lovingood Yarns* 243 TN, The road led ni ontu Wat's, ur the widdier's. 1887 (1967) Harris *Free Joe* 109 GA, Some folks mought take a notion hit wuz a long ways off; an' then, ag'in, yuther folks mought take a notion that hit wuz lots nigher. 1901 Harben *Westerfelt* 136 nGA, He reckoned the nigher people got to the railroad the furdier they wuz from the cross [=Christianity]. 1902 DN 2.240 sIL, Nigh. . . Always instead of near, which is not used. 1906 DN 3.121 sIN, Nigh. . . Used exclusively as the positive of near. *Ibid*, Nigh onto. . . Near to. 1907 DN 3.225 nwAR, Nigh. . . Near. 1907 Wright *Shepherd* 18 Ozarks, There's them that 'lows Jim knows a heap more 'bout old man Dewey's cave . . . his place bein' so nigh. 1915 (1916) Johnson *Highways New Engl.* 195, I felt his teeth graze my leg. I gorry! if he'd been a very little nigher he'd have got me! 1923 DN 5.215 swMO, Nigh. . . Near. 1934 Carmer *Stars Fell on AL* 156, The Lord tol' me to dress this way and go tell the Pope his time is nigh. 1954 [see **nigh onto** adv phrr]. 1966-69 DARE (Qu. MM5, When you're pointing out a house that's not far away: "The house is over _____.") Inf IL39, Prit nigh; (Qu. MM6, . . . 'Very close' or 'only a short distance away': "The house is _____ the park.") Infs CA3, MA38, TN20, (Right) nigh to; NY105, Nigh onto. 1982 Slone *How We Talked* 4 eKY (as of c1950), If you hear someone say of another person, "He is nigh to me," it represents a closeness, a belonging to each other, that no one nor anything can come between, not even death. 1983 MJLF 9.1.49 ceKY (as of 1956), Nigher . . . closer.

2 Almost, nearly; in neg contexts, at all.

1861 Holmes *Venner* 1.118 NEng, I'm pretty nigh beat out a'ready. 1867 Harris *Sut Lovingood Yarns* 218 TN, Everybody wer skar'd durn ni outen thar wits. 1871 Eggleston *Hoosier Schoolmaster* 165 sIN, Isn't nigh so good. 1884 *Anglia* 7.270 Sth, S Midl [Black], *Mighty nigh* = almost. 1887 (1967) Harris *Free Joe* 156 GA, I don't nigh like the style of that book. 1916 Lincoln *Mary-Gusta* 64 MA, God would knock anybody's head off. Mine pretty nigh come off when she said that. 1942 Faulkner *Go Down* 125 MS, She dont weigh hardly nothing. Not nigh as much as that finding-box. 1942 (1971) Campbell *Cloud-Walking* 8 seKY, The little one was nigh tucked out. 1965-70 DARE (Qu. LL30, . . . 'Nearly' or 'almost': "He fell off the ladder and _____ [broke his neck].") 10 Infs, scattered, Dang (or damn, darn) nigh; AR3, DC3, IN5, KY77, MA5, TN12, VA15, Pretty (or purt[y]) nigh; CA136, ID5, IL55, NC30, VA69, Nigh; KY25, LA8, NC82, VT6, Mighty nigh; IL97, LA40, PA190, Well nigh; AR35, Most nigh; [KY25, 77, Come nigh]; (Qu. X48b, . . . If a person is not so young any more . . . "He's _____.") Inf OK57, Nigh seventy; (Qu. KK45, . . . A narrow escape) Inf TN23, Purty nigh got hurt. 1969 DARE FW Addit KY23, Pert nigh nearly—heard by Inf.

B as quasi-prep or prep: Near, close to; hence v phr *come nigh* (foll by vbl n) to come close to, barely escape (doing something).

1859 (1922) Jackson *Col's Diary* 17 PA, I meet with difficulties I