African American Histories: Curricular Resources and Information to Build Teachers’ Background Knowledge

The ECEA believes that the histories of African Americans must be integral to day-to-day life in early childhood classrooms throughout the year as well as during Black History Month. This means moving beyond the token representations of a few famous African Americans (see link to Black Genius on this site for a broad range of famous African Americans) to rewriting typically told African American histories. This begins, not with stories of enslavement, but with the rich African past which impacts every aspect of our understandings from economics to art to sciences to mathematics to literature and poetry to music and movement to economics and government (see link: Africa’s Influence on the World’s Knowledge). The ECEA urges teachers to use the resources and this site to transform curriculum by providing more accurate and complete teaching about colonization, enslavement, Jim Crow, emancipation, and the civil rights movement.

African American history is American history:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37ubJ1uCMaY&feature=em-subscription_digest

Alice Walker: Our Real American History
http://www.makers.com/moments/our-real-american-history

PBS: Africans In America
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/tgcommonhistory.html
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html

Black history is American history:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/teach-plus/black-history-is-american_1_b_1304220.html

Voices of a People’s History:
http://zinnedproject.org/materials/voices-of-a-peoples-history-of-the-united-states/

Black history resource site: http://blackthen.com/

America’s Earliest Africans (narrated by Henry Louis Gates):
http://video.pbs.org/video/2365083024/

Visit the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC:

African American History website:
http://theafricanhistorynetwork.net/

We aren’t really teaching African American history: We must!
http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/10/the-history-class-dilemma/411601/?utm_source=SFTwitter
Understanding race as a social construct:  
http://www.vox.com/2015/1/13/7536655/race-myth-debunked

Africa is a continent not a country!  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmhqpS3oMpw

Colonization:

The colonization of Africa:
• http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-colonization-of-africa.html

What happens when we omit or sanitize versions of colonization:  
https://modelviewculture.com/pieces/how-to-uphold-white-supremacy-by-focusing-on-diversity-and-inclusion

Colonization and how we came to be raced:  
http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/10/16>this-video-captures-the-disturbing-truth-about-the-history-of-the-american-education-system/

Colonization and the African Diaspora  
https://www.facebook.com/AmericaTonight/videos/1017634318260484/?fref=nf

Colonization and Africa: Intentional European politicization and decimation of African tribes within countries.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw12KGSj53k

Colonizing and genocide:
• http://www.filmsforaction.org/news/when_you_kill_ten_million_africans_you_arent_called_hitler/
• http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/10/07>this-video-gives-a-devastating-look-on-how-european-imperialism-drove-so-many-black-populations-to-near-extinction/

Africans in Latin America (narrated by Henry Louis Gates):  
http://video.pbs.org/video/1860580316/

The Color Line: A History of Racism in America  
https://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-color-lineColonial-laws/

Enslavement in America  
http://www.rawstory.com/2015/10/slavery-in-america-was-much-worse-than-you-probably-imagined/#.VhAQrPondlw.facebook

Realities of slave ships:  
Books on enslavement:
http://ontheblacklist.net/2015/09/10-books-on-slavery-that-every-african-american-should-read/

Why America needs a slavery museum:

Slavery records opened:
• http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/jun/20/african-american-family-records-slavery-available-free-online?CMP=fb_us
• http://www.openculture.com/2015/06/1-5-million-slavery-era-documents-will-be-digitized-helping-african-americans-to-learn-about-their-lost-ancestors.html

Animated history of Atlantic slave trade:

Middle Passage, Hayden:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3Z4FEj7LJo

The commodification of human beings:
http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/05/22/history_of_slavery_in_the_united_states_samuel_sewall_s_the_selling_of_joseph.html

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North

Enslavement history and art:
http://www.seesomeworld.com/blog/x8h61jinlrkm1dxnwq8na2xpyyobza

Stories from enslaved Africans:
• https://www.facebook.com/rosieroyjr/videos/1036195299740607/?fref=nf
• http://blackthen.com/slavery-through-the-eyes-of-an-enslaved-child-fannie-moore-narrative/
• http://www.uncg.edu/~jpbrewer/remember/
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkArabbqKMw

Fictions about enslavement that need to be corrected:
• http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/10/the-history-class-dilemma/411601/?utm_source=SFTwitter
How slavery built America’s oldest and most elite colleges:

Free Blacks preCivil War, not just in the north:
http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2013/07/free_blacks_precivil_war_where_they_lived.html

An interactive history of the trading of enslaved Africans:

George Washington and slaves:
http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/07/10/george_washington_and_slavery_1761_newspaper_ad_seeking_four_fugitive_slaves.html

Anti-slavery documents:

10 Things You Should Know About Slavery and Won’t Learn in ‘Django’:
http://www.colorlines.com/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-slavery-and-wont-learn-django

What your history books didn’t teach you:

Enslavement in Montgomery, AL:
http://www.eji.org/raceandpoverty/slaveryinamerica

Enslavement in Charleston, SC:
https://www.facebook.com/AmericaTonight/videos/996215410402375/?fref=nf

Video tour: Enslavement in Charleston SC, missing from history:

Monument to enslaved Africans in NY:

Textbook got it wrong:
Resources to build knowledge about enslavement and colonization:
http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/07/ten-books-on-slavery-you-need-to-read-120590.html#.VbfgLEi7Ck

Reparations:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0pixo4bKYg

Children’s books:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/books-slavery-young-people_us_569e6009e4b04c81376177aa

Our American stories:
http://go.si.edu/site/PageNavigator/mm_stories;jsessionid=00000000.app30101a?NONCE_TOKEN=16BF6E9310A8A9E9B113EA96A4490B14

History of Storer College, VA:

Hidden Stories of African American History:

The story of Stagecoach Mary:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgUiWQr1Pzs&feature=youtu.be

California Blacks Nation: Califians, the First Americans

Black Wall Street
http://financialjunteenth.com/yes-there-was-more-than-one-black-wall-street-tell-these-stories-to-your-children/


A history of Juneteenth celebrations:
http://www.junteenth.com/history.htm

African Americans in the American West:
http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/lesson_plans/lesson04.htm

No Blacks Allowed: Oregon’s Dark Past as a Racist Utopia

Communities lost to racism:
http://www.pbs.org/independently/banished/places.html

The Untold Story of Emmett Luis Till (documentary 2005) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvijYSJtkQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvijYSJtkQk)

The meaning of Decoration Day/Memorial Day: [http://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-first-decoration-day/](http://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-first-decoration-day/)

Establishment of Los Angeles [https://face2faceafrica.com/article/los-angeles-pobladores#.VqvW1ctQn8H](https://face2faceafrica.com/article/los-angeles-pobladores#.VqvW1ctQn8H)

**After Emancipation:**

- PBS documentary about ongoing enslavement after the Emancipation Proclamation: [http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/home/](http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/home/)
- Slavery by Another Name (film) [http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/slavery-another-name](http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/slavery-another-name)

**Jim Crow Era:**


Documents from the Ku Klux Klan:
http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/04/08/history_of_the_kkk_membership_application_from_the_1920s.html

50 Years After Selma: Interview with Congressman John Lewis:

Selma: The Bridge to Ballot:
http://www.tolerance.org/selma-bridge-to-ballot

On Frederick Douglas and the 4th of July:

The Ocoee Massacre: Orange County Florida 1920
http://kentakepage.com/the-ocoee-massacre/

The “literacy test” required for Black voters:
http://www.addictinginfo.org/2014/11/12/harvard-students-take-1964-literacy-test-black-voters-had-to-pass-before-voting-they-all-failed/

Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South (interviews)
http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/behindtheveil/


Civil Rights:

Eyes on the prize: Civil Rights 1954-1985:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/

The road to Brown vs Board of Ed
https://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-road-to-brown/


Racial lynchings:
• http://www.jbhe.com/2015/02/new-study-says-racial-lynchings-have-been-underestimated/
• http://www.democracynow.org/2015/2/11/as_study_finds_4_000_lynchings

Selma:

History and Voting:
http://www.addictinginfo.org/2014/11/12/harvard-students-take-1964-literacy-test-black-voters-had-to-pass-before-voting-they-all-failed/

Teaching Resources

While these resources cover the span of grade levels including and beyond early childhood education, we know that teachers are experts at adapting ideas across grade levels and across the curriculum. Please explore these links with those thoughts in mind engaging in curricular discussions about what these ideas might mean for your own classrooms.

Teaching resources K-5:
http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/programs/african-american/LanguageArts-K-5.html

Africana books:

NEA teaching resources:

Teaching with historic places:
http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/topic.htm#african

African American history flash cards:
http://www.abcmeflashcards.com/

African American History Classroom Series:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa1_hFCCc4zbwGE0DdfS6Lw

African American History: Zinn Education Project
http://zinnedproject.org/teaching-materials/?themes=african-american

Civil Rights Movement:
• http://zinnedproject.org/teaching-materials/?themes=civil-rights-movements
• http://www.teachingforchange.org/programs/civil-rights-teaching
• http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/maya-angelou

PBS resources for teachers:
  o http://www.pbs.org/teachers/socialstudies/inventory/culturalstudiesafricanamericanstudies-912.html
  o http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/teachers/
Smithsonian resources for teachers:
- http://nmaahc.si.edu/education/educators

Dr. Kim Parker: Creating a Black Literacy Society for students: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8J4brhAKNo

Children’s books (please see further resources at our Children’s Books link): http://thebrownbookshelf.com/

Elementary, middle, and high school students who teach African American history through poetry:
http://younggiftedandblack.org/
http://younggiftedandblack.org/history.html