

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-subsub_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:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/arts-and-entertainment/wp/2015/11/02/african-american-museum-to-use-five-story-exterior-to-screen-3-d-video/?hpid=hp_hp-cards_hp-card-arts%3Ahomepage%2Fcard

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>
<http://atlantablackstar.com/2014/06/21/werent-clear-european-colonialists-really-africa-video-tells-devastating-story/>

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-line-colonial-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:

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/world/africa/tortuous-history-traced-in-sunken-slave-ship-found-off-south-africa.html?smid=fb-share&_r=0

Books on enslavement:

<http://ontheblacklist.net/2015/09/10-books-on-slavery-that-every-african-american-should-read/>

Why America needs a slavery museum:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/402172/the-only-american-museum-about-slavery/>

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:

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html

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

<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0222>

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
- <http://www.vox.com/2015/6/29/8847385/what-i-learned-from-leading-tours-about-slavery-at-a-plantation>
- http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2012/10/how_many_slaves_came_to_america_fact_vs_fiction.html?wpisrc=ck_facebook_CK-ROOT.AA-TRF-A02-FB-FBLP-FKW-US-AA-BO-18-R13

How slavery built America's oldest and most elite colleges:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/09/17/223420533/how-slavery-shaped-americas-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:

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html?wpsrc=sh_all_dt_fb_top

George Washington and slaves:

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/07/10/george_washington_and_slavery_1761_newspaper_ad_asking_for_fugitive_slaves.html

Anti-slavery documents:

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/02/11/elizabeth_cady_stanton_susan_b_anthony_antislavery_petition_drive_in_1864.html

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:

<http://holykaw.alltop.com/the-slave-trade-what-your-history-books-didnt-teach-you-video>

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:

<http://www.vox.com/2015/6/29/8847385/what-i-learned-from-leading-tours-about-slavery-at-a-plantation>

Monument to enslaved Africans in NY:

<http://atlantablackstar.com/2015/03/26/united-nations-unveils-stunning-memorial-in-new-york-to-millions-who-died-and/>

Textbook got it wrong:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/07/01/why-do-people-believe-myths-about-the-confederacy-because-our-textbooks-and-monuments-are-wrong/?postshare=5221435752815985>

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#.VbfgLEil7Ck>

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:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/a-black-college-closed-in-1955-but-its-fading-alumni-fight-to-pass-on-a-legacy/2015/10/21/1a1a379c-67d1-11e5-9223-70cb36460919_story.html

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

<http://www.eurweb.com/2015/10/history-of-the-california-blacks-nation-califians-khalifians-the-first-americans/>

Black Wall Street

<http://financialjuneteenth.com/yes-there-was-more-than-one-black-wall-street-tell-these-stories-to-your-children/>

The history of Central Park: <http://www.citymetric.com/skylines/new-york-destroyed-village-full-african-american-landowners-create-central-park-893>

A history of Juneteenth celebrations:

<http://www.juneteenth.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

<http://atlantablackstar.com/2015/01/25/blacks-allowed-oregons-dark-past-racist-utopia-explains-blacks-today/>

Communities lost to racism:

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/banished/places.html>

South Carolina 14-year-old executed in 1944, murder conviction thrown out in 2014 <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/exonerated-after-execution-judge-tosses-murder-conviction-14-year-old-n270176>

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

The meaning of Decoration Day/Memorial Day:
<http://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-first-decoration-day/>

Establishment of Los Angeles
<https://face2faceafrica.com/article/los-angeles-pobladores#.VqvW1ctQn8H>

After Emancipation:

- The story behind 40 acres and a mule:
<http://newblackman.blogspot.com/2015/01/the-story-behind-40-acres-and-mule.html>
- PBS documentary about ongoing enslavement after the Emancipation Proclamation:
<http://www.pbs.org/tpt/slavery-by-another-name/home/>
- Realities of families seeking their families:
http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2015/07/13/history_of_slavery_newspaper_ads_used_to_find_family_after_emancipation.html?wpsrc=sh_all_dt_tw_top
- Great Migration depicted in art:
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/revisiting-great-migration-paintings-poetry/>
- Slavery by Another Name (film)
<http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/slavery-another-name>
- The Abolitionists (National Endowment for the Arts):
Parts I, II, and III: <http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/abolitionists>
- The Mississippi Plan (disenfranchisement of African Americans prior to Jim Crow): <http://blackthen.com/how-the-mississippi-plan-was-used-to-disenfranchises-african-americans-before-jim-crow/>

Jim Crow Era:

Jump Jim Crow
<http://blackthen.com/jump-jim-crow-the-story-behind-blackface/>

Neshoba: The Price of Freedom
<http://firstrunfeatures.com/neshobadvd.html>

Racism is not just in the south:
http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/24/racism-us-north-south-confederate-flag?CMP=fb_us

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:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/24/capitol-download-john-lewis-selma-50th-anniversary/23935047/>

Selma: The Bridge to Ballot:

<http://www.tolerance.org/selma-bridge-to-ballot>

On Frederick Douglas and the 4th of July:

<https://davidkirkland.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/my-teacher-told-me-lies-an-essay-on-why-i-cant-with-the-fourth-of-july/>

The Ocoee Massacre: Orange County Florida 1920

<http://kentakpage.com/the-ocoe-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/>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/28/opinion/the-cold-cases-of-the-jim-crow-era.html?smid=fb-share&_r=0

The Loving Story: Story of the biracial marriage of Mildred and Richard

Loving, arrest and legal battles: <http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/loving-story>

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/>

Freedom Riders: <http://createdequal.neh.gov/films/freedom-riders>

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
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/10/us/history-of-lynchings-in-the-south-documents-nearly-4000-names.html>

Selma:

- <http://empathyeducates.org/Journeys-to-and-through/the-selma-voting-rights-struggle-15-key-points-from-bottom-up-history-and-why-it-matters-today/?portfolioID=6319>
- http://www.theroot.com/articles/news/2015/04/every_us_high_school_to_get_free_dvd_of_selma.html

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:

<http://www.teachingforchange.org/childrens-africana-book-awards-festival>

NEA teaching resources:

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bhm-curriculum-resources-gradesK-5.html>

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:

- <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/socialstudies/inventory/culturalstudiesafricanamericanstudies-912.html>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/teachers/>

Smithsonian resources for teachers:

- http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/african_american_resources.html
- <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>

NEA K-5 resources: <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bhm-curriculum-resources-gradesK-5.html>