

REMEMBERING SLAVERY

WebQuest Description: Presented here is a look at early America with first-hand accounts of slavery and life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students will obtain a more personal sense of the past by examining the lives and careers of ordinary men and women interviewed during the period of the Federal Writer's Project during the 1930s. The Library of Congress' American Memory Project contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: slavery, Federal Writer's Project

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Introduction

What drove human beings to do such terrible things to their fellow man? How did people fight back? In the following unit you will learn more about the different groups of people that were affected by the institution of slavery in the United States. You will complete activities to build your knowledge base, and apply what you have learned in a closing activity which will call for you to plan an escape to liberty.

Tasks

In order to successfully plan your escape each group will need to gather background information. You will need to learn about the differences between the North and the South during the Antebellum Period, as well as the different groups of people involved in the institution of slavery. By becoming experts on the people and the cultural atmosphere of the time you will have a better idea of what you will need to do in order to successfully make it to freedom! <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

Process

This Lesson is designed for 6th 7th and 8th grades Lesson One: An Examination of Interviews from the American Slave Narratives and the American Folklore Collection <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html> Students will examine and interpret interviews obtained by authors working for the Federal Writer's Project between 1936-1938. A close study of the narratives provided here and at the Library of Congress' will enable students to: Obtain a more personal sense of the past by examining the lives and careers of ordinary men and women interviewed during the period of the Federal Writer's Project.

Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Very Good 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.	%25
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				Total Score	%100

Conclusion

All Americans have made personal sacrifices but when we understand the past we can adjust to the future. New Deal programs experimented with a variety of methods for encouraging employment as a means of stimulating economic recovery. The stories of individual lives make up the stuff of historical investigation, but their use raises important issues and considerations for historians. As educators we have a responsibility to ensure hope for the future. Students will accomplish these objectives: To read and analyze oral interviews for specific content To describe and summarize the content of individual texts for the benefit of other students To understand that the process of selecting and synthesizing primary documents inevitably involves individual point of view and bias. First-hand accounts of slavery and Life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries provides interesting insight into every day life.

Teacher Page

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Standards

Credits

Other