

BIG IDEA

Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) is one of the few Towns in Ontario that has had Black residents since its founding and since the beginning of the province. This program is designed to tell the story of Black Canadians in our early history through hands-on activities and the exploration of historical materials. Students are encouraged to experience history by asking questions, taking risks, and working as a team, while developing their critical thinking skills. This constructive and active program will allow students to connect to the past in a new way, while making learning exciting!

The Voices of Freedom (VOF) education program will highlight five perspectives of NOTL's early Black residents from the 18th century into the 20th century. We will examine the voices of 1) Those who were enslaved, 2) Black Loyalists, 3) The deep-rooted Black Community, 4) Black Women, and 5) Freedom seekers who sought out NOTL after the 1793 anti-slavery legislation. Each group had their own unique perspectives, experiences, and influences on the history of the NOTL community.

Students will handle primary sources and use observation and historical thinking strategies, to piece together an accurate portrait of the past Black community in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

After a group introduction and a brief presentation on Black History in NOTL, students will be divided into small groups and participate in a carousel activity using Biography Boxes. Students will use their investigative skills to examine documents, artefacts, and other source material in the Biography Boxes. Students will then piece together the stories of individuals and events from within the sources, documenting their ideas and findings on worksheets provided. Once the students have rotated and examined each Biography Box, the class will come back together to present their findings and have a group conclusion.

GRADE LEVELS & CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This educational program has been designed using the Ontario Curriculum for the following Grades and Strands:

GRADE 3 Social Studies

A. Communities in Canada, 1780–1850

GRADE 6 Social Studies

A. Communities in Canada, Past and Present

GRADE 7 History

A. New France and British North America, 1713–1800

B. Canada, 1800–1850: Conflict and Challenges

GRADE 8 History

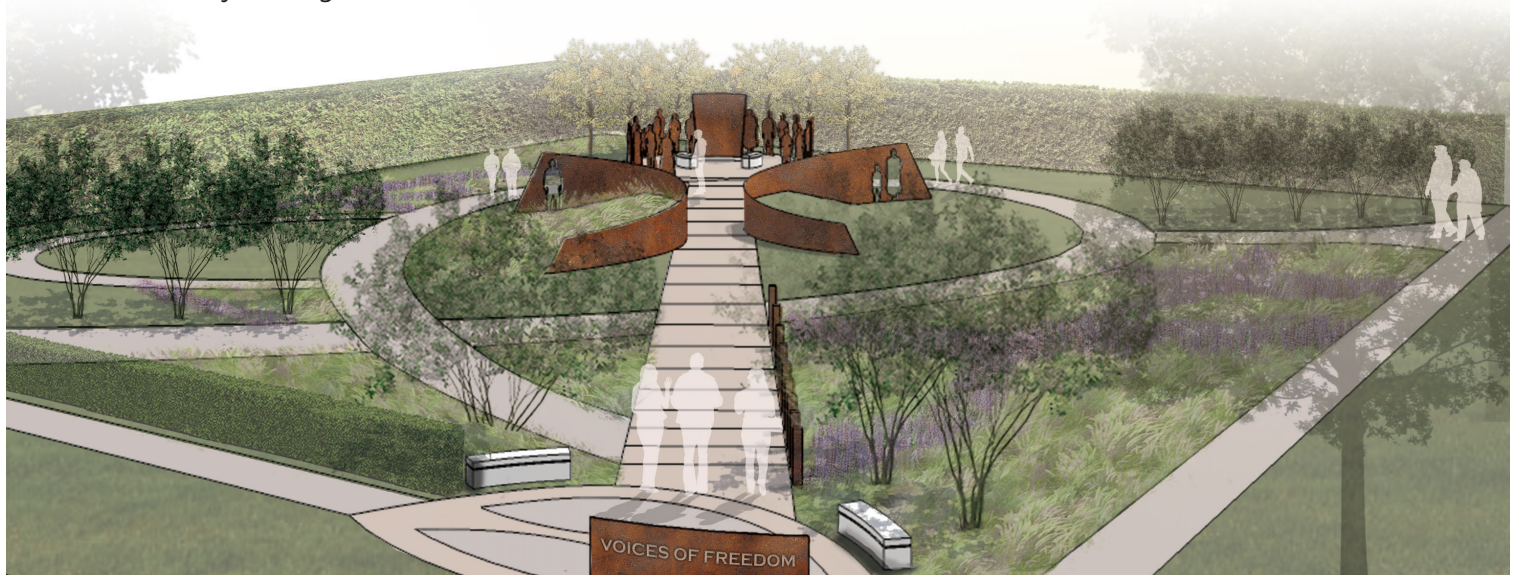
A. Creating Canada, 1850–1890

GRADE 12 Canada: History, Identity and Culture

C. Canada 1774-1867

DURATION

Elementary: 100 Minutes. Secondary: 60-75 Minutes.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will gain a deeper understanding of NOTL's Black History through material culture and primary sources. They will explore various historical perspectives by examining evidence and making inferences.

Students will:

- Investigate primary sources to discover facts and make inferences
- Identify artefacts and how they relate to and tell the story of local residents or events.
- Discuss the relationships between the various groups of NOTL's Black residents

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

To ensure that your students get the most out of our program consider reviewing the following topics and questions before our visit:

- What is chattel Slavery? Why did we have chattel Slavery in Canada?
- What is Racism?
- Who were the Black Loyalists?
- The Act to Limit Slavery of 1793.
- Explore maps of the Niagara Region from the late 18th century to the 20th century
- Gr. 7-12 Explore the War of 1812
- Gr 7-12 Explore the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850
- Review the historical inquiry process
- Consider bringing in different types of sources for the students to look at, talk about, and analyze: Pictures, books, objects from home.
- Consider talking about how one object can tell a story. In Elementary grades you might do a show and tell activity, in Intermediate and Senior grades consider a picture analysis or a primary source analysis.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

To continue the learning and conversation about Black history in NOTL, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities:

- Organize a field trip to the Voices of Freedom (VOF) Park and/or take the Black History Walking tour with the VOF App. vofpark.org
- If you cannot travel to the park or NOTL, go online to www.baladodiscovery.com to see the images, text, and audio clips from the walking tour. Take a virtual field trip around the significant Black History sites in NOTL
- Research significant Black Canadians from the Niagara region in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Create a timeline showing significant events in Black Canadian History.
- Continue the topic of building a story around a source. Have the students build their own Biography Boxes that tell their own stories or the story of another significant Canadian.
- Visit Historica Canada's website for Black History Lesson Plans: blackhistorycanada.ca/teachers.php?id=141
- Learn ways to incorporate Black History into all elements of the Ontario Curriculum by visiting: etfo.ca/SupportingMembers/Resources/Pages/365.aspx

DIFFERENTIATION

The program will be differentiated based on grade level. Different primary sources will be used to suit the abilities and appropriate content of each grade. Resources that are written in cursive writing and those difficult to read will be transcribed for clarity. The program uses multiple teaching tools and styles to attempt to appeal to all learners.

MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING

For more information or to book the Voices of Freedom Education Program please contact:



Niagara Historical Society & Museum
Phone: 905-468-3912
Email: contact@nhsm.ca