



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education & Research



Cultural Education Project 2

**Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
August 2021**

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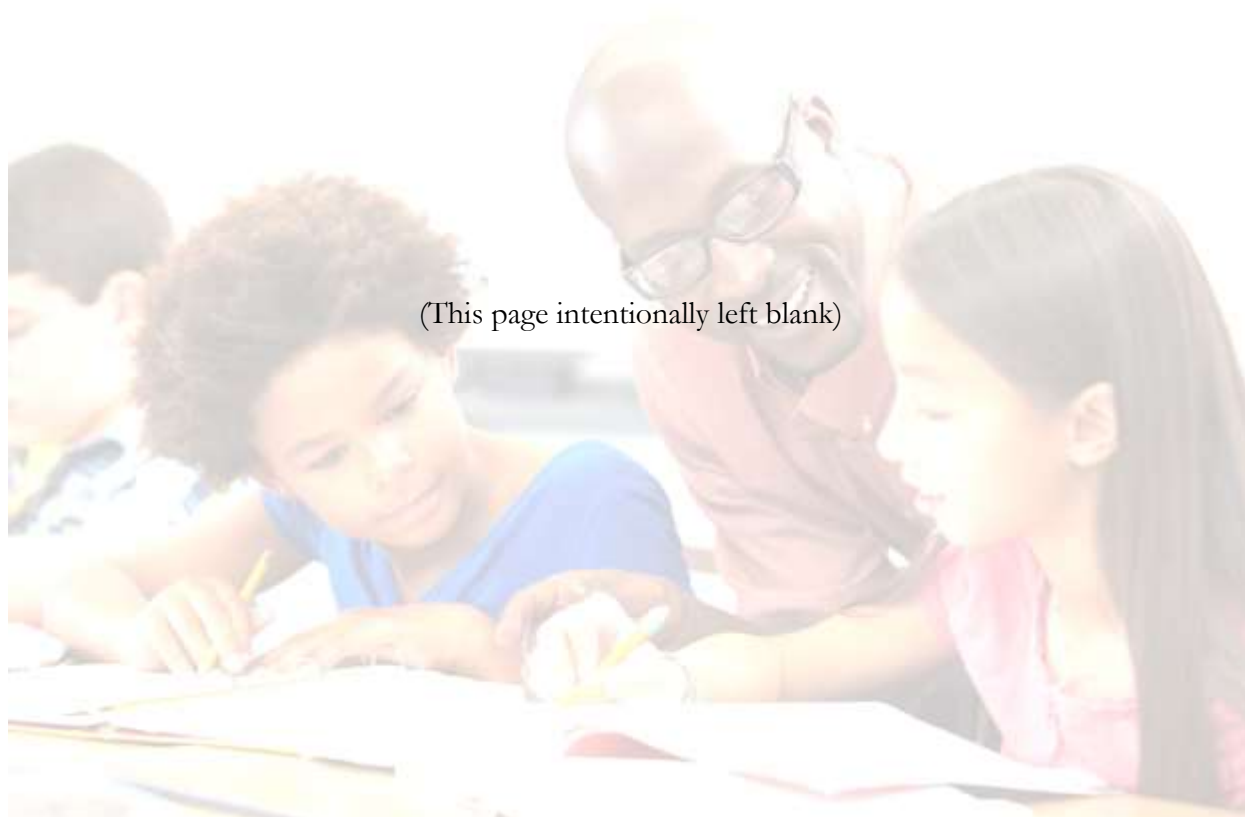


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS	4
Wanda Thomas Bernard	4
Benjamin Jackson	9
ARTS AND CULTURE	12
Marjorie Turner-Bailey	12
Sylvia D. Hamilton	14
AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN COMMUNITIES	18
New Glasgow	18
INSPIRATION SPOTLIGHT	20
Daneesha Provo	20
PROJECT AUTHOR	21
Desiree Sparks	21
SOURCES	22



HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

WANDA THOMAS BERNARD



Canadian Senator

Photo source: <https://rotarytoronto.com/Stories/the-honourable-wanda-thomas-bernard-phd-c.m.-o.n.s.>

Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard is a Canadian Senator. She was born in East Preston, Nova Scotia. Dr. Thomas Bernard spent her career as a social worker, community activist and professor at Dalhousie University. She currently works for the Federal Government, representing Nova Scotia. She was appointed Independent Senator by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2016. She uses her platform to address racism and break down barriers for people of African descent. Dr. Thomas Bernard works to bring diversity to many political organizations within Nova Scotia, and her life remains a testament of that. She has received many awards for her commitment to community and leadership, most notably, the Order of Nova Scotia and Order of Canada.

Dr. Thomas Bernard often reflects on her difficult past. Born into a cycle of unequal opportunity, she encourages Black Nova Scotians to look beyond their circumstances and to move further. Her life was not easy. She grew up in a family of 11 brothers and sisters, and at the tender age of 12, her father passed away. When this tragedy happened, her mother was forced to raise their large family alone, with very little financial stability. Dr. Thomas Bernard often reminisces about the outpouring of love from the community of East Preston after this tragic event. This love is what kept her grounded. She would argue today that her commitment to helping others developed as a result of the support she received from her community after her father's death. Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard is a highly regarded Black Nova Scotian, educator, community activist, and politician, who stands as a positive role model for Blacks across the province.

TERMS TO KNOW

Independent Senator

An Independent Senator is not attached to any political party. This new position has been in existence since 2016. It was introduced to Parliament to modernize the Upper House of Canada.

What is a Senator?

- There are currently 105 senators in Parliament.
- They help shape Canada's future by proposing bills and generating debate about issues in the country.
- They review legislation, suggest improvements, and fix mistakes on issues within country.
- A bill (law) must be approved by the Senate before it becomes law.
- The Senate was created to reflect Canada's diverse populations in the House of Commons. This helps give voice to underrepresented groups such as, Indigenous people, visible minorities, and women.

QUICK ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS

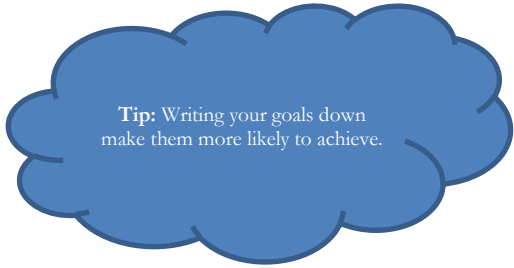
1. How many Senators currently sit in Parliament?

2. What are the Senator's duties?

3. Why was the Senate created?

4. Why might it be important to give voice to underrepresented groups?

REFLECTION QUESTION

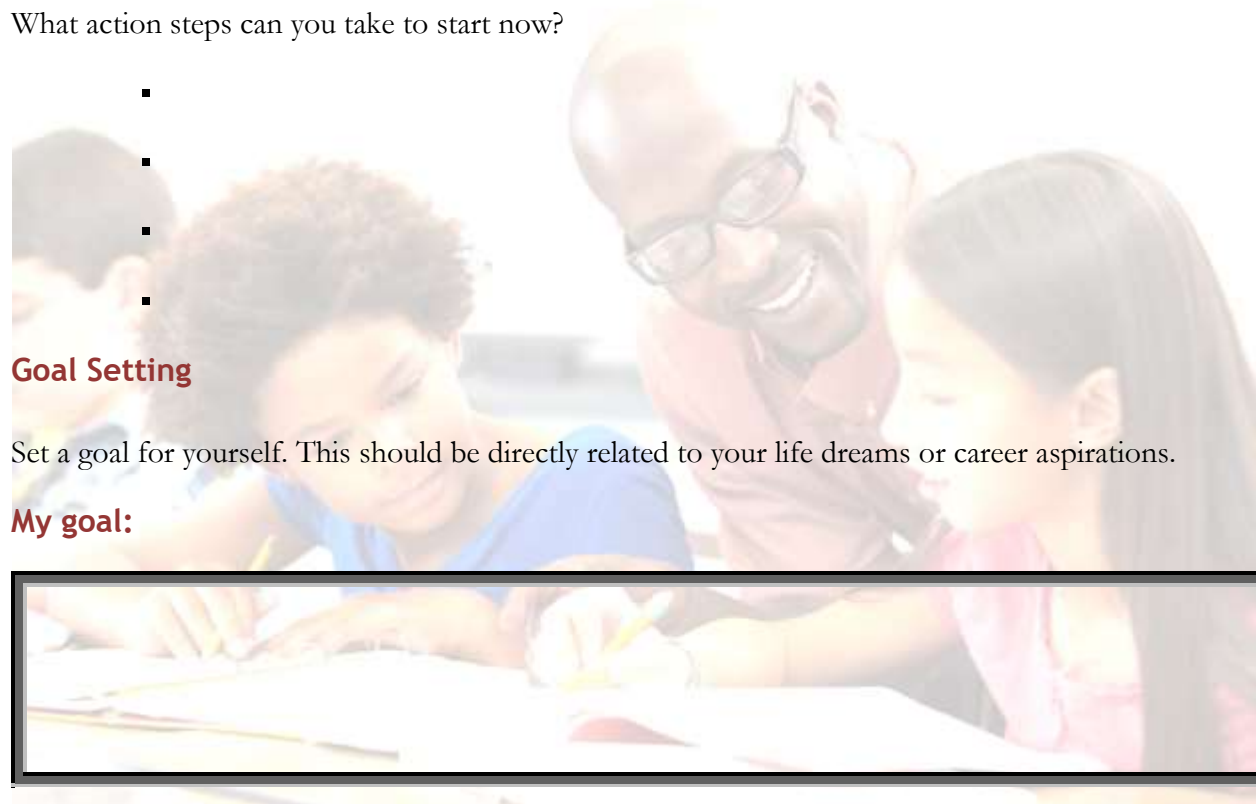


What do you aspire to be when you grow up?

When I grow up, I am going to become:

What action steps can you take to start now?

-
-
-
-



Goal Setting

Set a goal for yourself. This should be directly related to your life dreams or career aspirations.

My goal:

EMANCIPATION DAY!

What is this?

The day slavery was abolished across the British Empire.

When?

August 1, 1834

Why?

The history of slavery in Canada is not taught in the education system. Therefore, students of African descent, and all learners, are denied learning about their true history. For example, many people do not believe slavery existed in Canada. This erasure of history leaves Black students confused about their culture and identity. In the words of Dr. Thomas Bernard, “every child needs to learn their full history.”

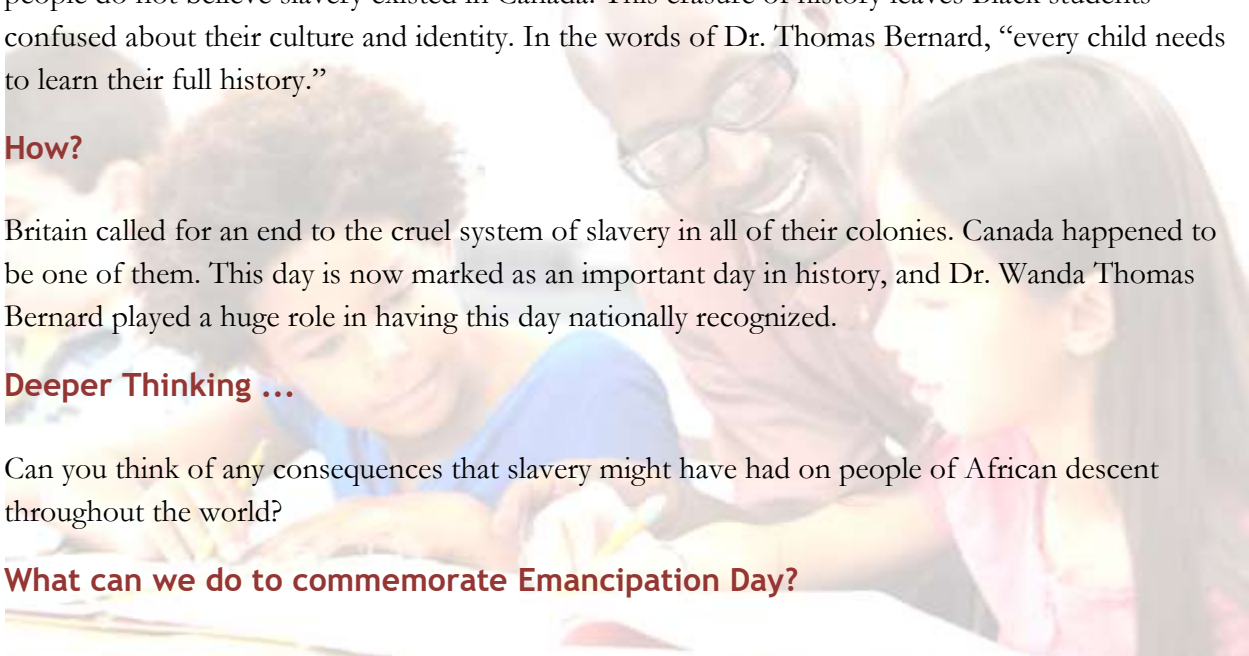
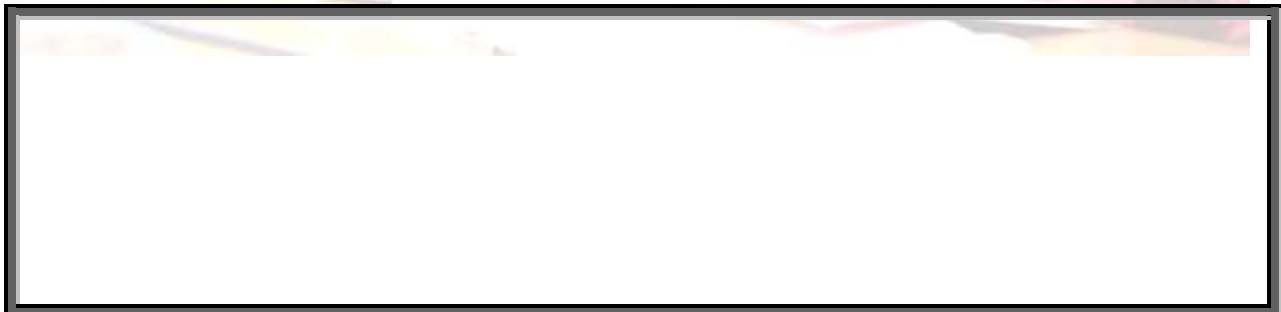
How?

Britain called for an end to the cruel system of slavery in all of their colonies. Canada happened to be one of them. This day is now marked as an important day in history, and Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard played a huge role in having this day nationally recognized.

Deeper Thinking ...

Can you think of any consequences that slavery might have had on people of African descent throughout the world?

What can we do to commemorate Emancipation Day?



What will you do in the future to commemorate Emancipation Day?

What happened in Halifax on Emancipation Day 2021?



DBDLI Emancipation Day Countdown

DBDLI counted down the days to Emancipation Day on their YouTube channel. Watch Day 13 below.

A Message from Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard

Click the link to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHZt0w2vD2E> (2:41)

Check this Out!

- Check out the book: *Q is for Quarantine: The ABC's of Covid* by Damon Roker and Gavin Roker with afterword by Wanda Thomas Bernard.
- Click the link to learn more about Emancipation Day:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgDi2xH DOo> (18:54)

BENJAMIN JACKSON



Benjamin (Ben) Jackson, 1835-1915 and his horse "Jack"
Photo source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Jackson_\(soldier\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Jackson_(soldier))

Benjamin (Ben) Jackson was an African Nova Scotian sailor from Kings County. Born January 2, 1845, in West Brooklyn, Kings County. He is well-known for his contribution and efforts to the American Civil War. His accomplishments went largely unnoticed during his lifetime. He is now known to be one of Nova Scotia's war heroes. Ben was among 75 African Nova Scotians who enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Ben Jackson became a sailor at the age of 16.
- His parents were Black refugees, who settled in Avonport in Kings County, Nova Scotia.
- Ben enlisted in the U.S. Navy for two years (on a term).
- Ben served as a substitute in the Civil War in place of a man named Lewis Saunders. To avoid military service, wealthy men were permitted to pay substitutes to serve in their place.
- Ben was paid \$300, which was Saunders' yearly salary.
- Ben Jackson fought in the last battle of the American Civil War on August 5, 1864.

- For many Black men, the U.S. Navy offered them a chance to fight for freedom and put an end to slavery, but this was not the case for Ben. Ben was already a free man in Nova Scotia and chose to enlist for the money.
- He was designated an Able Seaman, which was the highest rank among the crew on deck.
- Ben became a hero when he retaliated against a rebel ship by capturing a shell that landed on the ship deck. He saved many lives and prevented much damage.
- After the war, he was awarded the Civil War Campaign Medal for his service.
- There is now a street named after Jackson in Avonport, close to the place he grew up, called “Ben Jackson Road.”
- He became the first Canadian sailor and the first Black person in the British Empire to be awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross.

TERMS TO KNOW

Black Refugee

Blacks who escaped slavery in the United States during the War of 1812 and settled in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Trinidad.

Able Seaman

A seaman who has at least two years of experience at sea. This person carries out many different duties on the ship, including general operations, maintenance and maintaining crew safety.

DID YOU KNOW?

The American Civil War took place in the United States from April 12, 1861-May 9, 1865. This war was fought between the northern and southern states of the US. There were 11 southern states that separated themselves from the US to form the Confederate States of America. These states were in favor of keeping slavery in existence. Therefore, the main cause of the war was the status of whether slavery should be legal or illegal.

ACTIVITY 1: QUESTIONS

1. When did the American Civil War take place?

2. Why did it take place?

3. What were the results?

4. What did this mean for people of African descent?

CHECK THIS OUT!

1. Find more about the American civil war here:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Civil-War>

2. Research Rose Mary Sadler, a Canadian Civil war veteran.

ACTIVITY 2: READING + COMPREHENSION

Read the facts section about Ben Jackson and answer the following:

1. What age did Ben Jackson become a sailor?

a) 21

b) 30

c) 16

d) 27

2. Who did Ben Jackson serve as a substitute in the War?

3. Why did many Black men choose to fight in the Civil War at that time?

4. What was Ben's official title/position on the ship?

5. What award was Ben Jackson given to acknowledge his outstanding military service?

ARTS AND CULTURE

MARJORIE TURNER-BAILEY

Marjorie Turner-Bailey is a Canadian Olympic runner.



One of the youngest Canadian runners to ever qualify for the Olympics

Photo source: <https://www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/MediaRoom/Newsroom/Natalie%20Meisner.htm>

EARLY LIFE

Marjorie grew up in Lockeport, Nova Scotia. She was one of four Black children in her small community. She grew up in a small fishing village and remembers having a happy childhood. Her parents were descendants of the Black Loyalists who settled in Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1783.

SCHOOL LIFE

Marjorie attended Lockeport High School. She was well known for being an all-around student athlete. Marjorie played soccer, track and field, and soon became an all-star basketball player. She led her team to win the high school provincial title in 1964. Marjorie's two sisters were also all-stars on the Lockeport basketball team. However, it was track and field that brought national attention to this young lady. By grade 11, Marjorie had won two track and field trophies in the name of her high school. At the age of 16, she was named "Nova Scotia Athlete of the Year."

OLYMPIC DREAMS

Marjorie became one of the youngest Canadian runners to ever qualify for the Olympics. While still in high school, she qualified to compete in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics! She also qualified for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. Unfortunately, injury prevented Marjorie from participating in both.

Marjorie was determined. She knew the value of hard work. Marjorie continued to train and compete all over the world. She knew the steps required to keep her dream alive. Twelve years later, she made her dream come true. In 1976, she took part in the Montreal Olympics. Marjorie made the semi-finals in the 100 and 200 meters. She ran the 4x100 relay so fast that it left Canadians in shock! She was able to finish bringing the Canadian team to fourth place from sixth. Marjorie's hard work is truly an inspiration to all young athletes, near and far.

ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS

Imagine that you are young Marjorie growing up in Lockport, a small white community in Nova Scotia. What sorts of challenges do you think she would have faced as only one of four Black children in her community? Write a detailed response to this question below:

STUDENT RUNNING CHALLENGE!

Challenge yourself to run a short distance. Set a goal and try to beat that record!

Steps:

- Designate a space.
- Determine your distance.
- Set a record and run!
- Be sure to time yourself.
- Section off a start and finish area.
- Try to beat your own record!

DID YOU KNOW?

Shay Colley is a female basketball player from East Preston, Nova Scotia, who is representing Canada in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics!

SYLVIA D. HAMILTON

Sylvia Hamilton is a Canadian filmmaker, writer, educator, and artist



Photo source: <https://www.cinemapolitica.org/artists/sylvia-hamilton>

INTERESTING FACTS

- Canadian filmmaker, writer, educator, and artist from Beechville, Nova Scotia.
- Taught as a professor at the University of King's College School of Journalism.
- Produces and directs films through Maroon Films, her independent company.
- Attended a segregated all-Black primary school in her younger years.
- Became the first person from the community of Beechville to graduate high school.
- Her work focuses primarily on the lives and experiences of African Nova Scotians, especially women.

THE LITTLE BLACK SCHOOL HOUSE (2007)

The Little Black School House is a documentary film written, directed and produced by Sylvia Hamilton through her company, Maroon Films. This film is about the history of segregated schools in the Ontario and Nova Scotian school systems. Segregated schools existed in Nova Scotia and Ontario, and these were protected under the law. This film addresses the issues of institutional racism and the negative effects this forced separation had on people of African descent.

REFLECTION QUESTION

There are many Black leaders today who believe an Africentric school in Nova Scotia is necessary to bridge the gap in Africentric education. Do you think it would be beneficial for students of African descent to attend an all-Black school?

SYLVIA HAMILTON DOCUMENTARIES

- We are One (2011)
- The Little Black School House (2007)
- Keep on Keepin' On (2004)
- Portia White: Think on Me (2000)
- Against the Tides: The Jones Family (Hymn to Freedom Series) (1994)
- Speak It! From the Heart of Black Nova Scotia (1993)

ACTIVITY 1: INTERVIEW

Interview a family member about their experiences in the Nova Scotia education system. Be sure to get as much information as possible to use for the next activity. Use the next page to record your questions and responses.

10 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



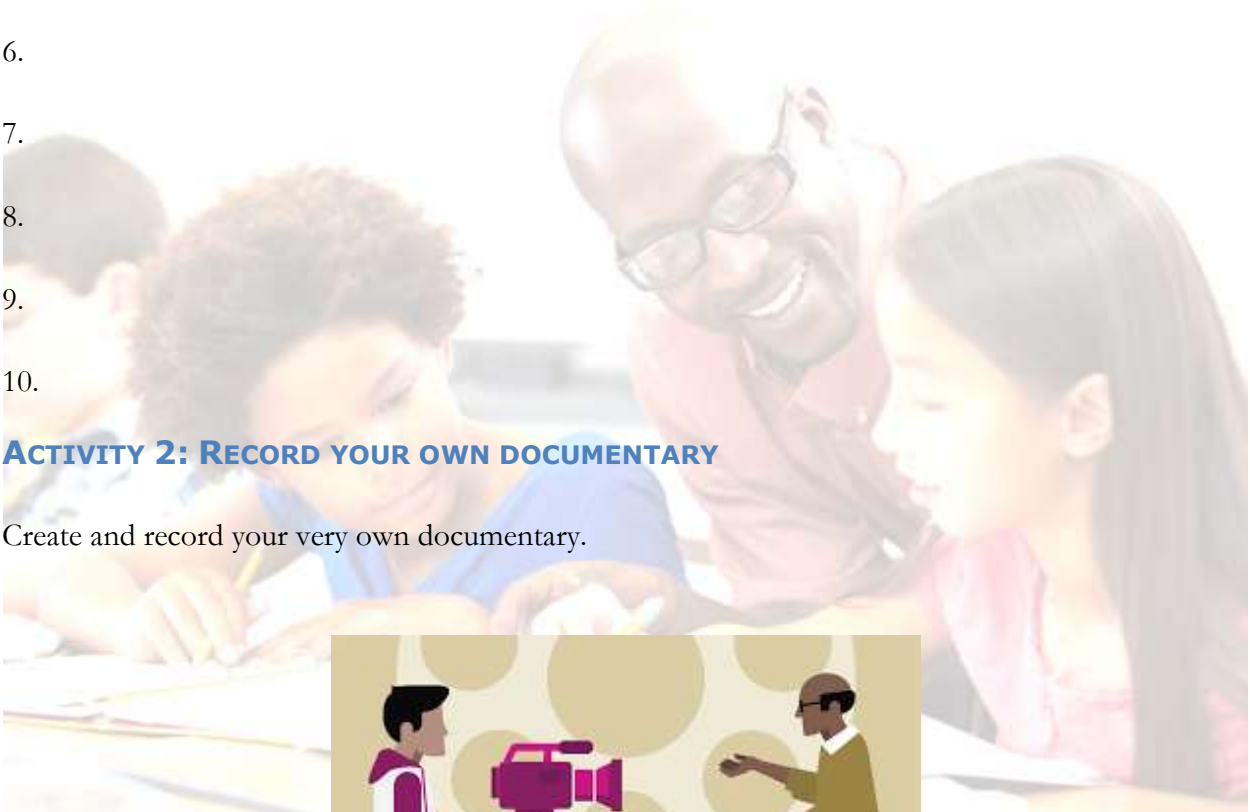
Ask open-ended questions!

INTERVIEW RESPONSES

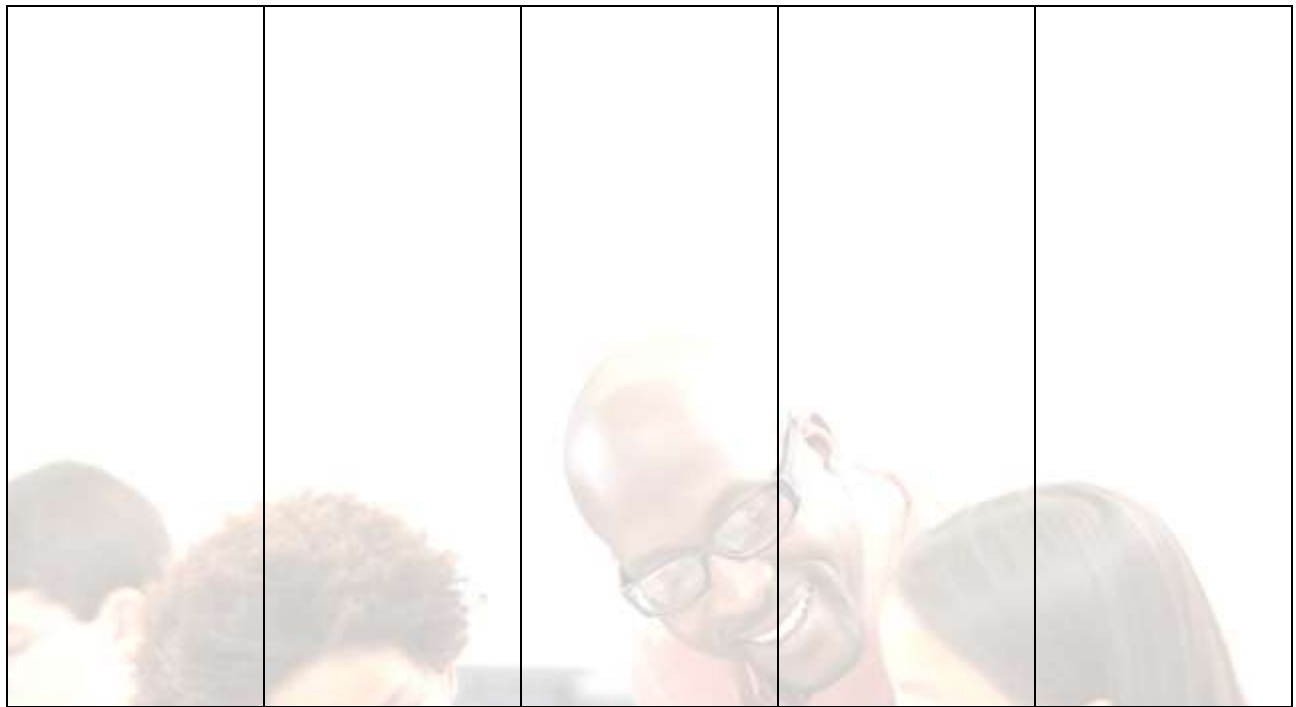
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

ACTIVITY 2: RECORD YOUR OWN DOCUMENTARY

Create and record your very own documentary.



Use the storyboard below to plan your documentary. You can use the boxes to plan out each scene. Then, give a short description of what is happening in the text field below.



Below the storyboard grid, there are several horizontal lines for writing. The word "TIPS" is written in blue, bold, uppercase letters. Below it, there is a paragraph of text: "Ask for permission to record. Use your cell phone to record. Find a quiet space. Speak loud and clear. Edit clips later. Have fun! Publish finished product!"

Visit your local library for copies of Sylvia’s films to inspire your creative mind.

CHECK THIS OUT!

- Research segregation in the Canadian school system. Visit this webpage: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/racial-segregation-of-black-people-in-canada>

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN COMMUNITIES

NEW GLASGOW

A HISTORY

New Glasgow is a town in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. The first Black settlers arrived in the mid-18th century. There is now a population of Black people who are mainly concentrated in an area called, Vale Road. To commemorate the rich African heritage, history, and culture in New Glasgow, locals built the Africentric Heritage Park in the heart of the Black community. This Park includes a 10-metre-high pyramid, modelled after the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. The stones used to create this pyramid were gathered from Africa, Europe, the United States, and Canada to represent the history and migration story of Black Nova Scotians. There are many prominent Black Canadian landmarks and people from the town of New Glasgow, such as Dr. Carrie Best, the co-founder of the “The Clarion,” one of the first newspapers in Nova Scotia owned and published by Black Canadians. Dr. Best often wrote about issues Black people faced in this newspaper, such as, the well-known case of Viola Desmond that took place at the Roseland Theater, which is now located on Viola’s Way. This street was renamed to honor the legacy of Viola Desmond.



Picture of the pyramid located in Africentric Heritage Park, New Glasgow
Photo source: <https://highlandconnect.cioc.ca/record/NGL0007>

Which Black community are you from? What landmarks are located in your community?

People & Places in New Glasgow

P F H U B X J G S U O S W P B B C A G J N X V X H
 H X C A Z I K A E U K Z E S J Q H R D K K T S W B
 A V H G M V L H C A P L S T O J E L N W H R Z T T
 A A X I A X H J O B W F L J M J R K J M Q B B J R
 Y H D V F K A A N G E H J Y Q F R Q P T Y L L G U
 V J G F B X W X D B R D M P X K Y C Y I C A H J N
 A R A E E J K K B F M K B E M N P Z R N E C Z L C
 L A B C X A R G A A V V K L K R A A A P F K C K D
 E V E A V L T T P C B K F C S M R V M P X G L C G
 R P I S F D V R T G E E I E N Z I M I J R A P T K
 O V L O Z R I T I V F O W B P X S M D J M L G J C
 A N I T L M I T S O K D O P F V P Z P Q C A M F G
 D U C O H A E C T H H M E N G H K J V R A J N U N
 S B Q D L E D I E Q B O I N T W K S H U R E N L H
 X A W Q N A C E G N Q K N R X D D J C R R Q O B A
 S S W Z U H S L S C T N Z E Y N E Z E E I B A R I
 E L R T M S Z W A M J R K R W W K Q R R E W B R W
 G P K I L Z K I A R O N I H A G S V K I B C I N I
 S B R Y H O O X J Y I N F C V D L Y N J E W V B S
 I T W G B X A P T P L O D I P N T A N D S P K H L
 X G A Y V X V V N R F S N U L A B U S A T M Y Z R
 U R E D D I C K L A N E R D P H R V C G J E E T K
 K J Z V N G Z C Y V V D V R Q Q E K J A O H O X T
 I E U C A V Y F D Y Y Y F X V N N G D T J W Q J O
 Z W V I D E N M K K N W Z W B S G W F Q P T O Y Q

Africentric Park	Second Baptist	Viola Desmond	Reddick Lane
Cherry Paris	Carrie Best	New Glasgow	The Clarion
Viola's Way	Vale Road	Pyramid	Black Gala

INSPIRATION SPOTLIGHT

DANEESHA PROVO



Daneesha Provo is a basketball player from North Preston, Nova Scotia. She moved to the United States at the young age of 14 to pursue her basketball dreams. When Daneesha left, she was only in grade eight. She was sent to a boarding school without her parents! She often recalls how difficult it was to leave her parents, friends, and family at such a young age. Daneesha attended Kent School in Connecticut. This experience taught Daneesha determination, responsibility, and discipline. After four seasons of playing for Kent, she left to play in the NCAA with the Clemson Tigers, in South Carolina. She then transferred to the University of Utah and played four successful seasons there. Daneesha's latest accomplishments would be playing professionally in Germany's top professional women's basketball league. Daneesha Provo is an inspiration to all, young and old. Her hard work and determination show us how much hard work will pay off when you remain focused. Most recently, Daneesha qualified to try out for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, however, she injured her achilles tendon just before competition. Daneesha's advice to the younger generation is to "continue to work hard in the classroom, and push to reach your dreams and goals! It is on you to strive!"

PROJECT AUTHOR

DESIREE SPARKS



My name is Desiree Sparks. I was born and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with a Bachelor of Education in 2020. I am a teacher at Auburn Drive High School. I currently teach English and Social Studies in the Africentric Cohort. The Africentric Cohort at Auburn is the first of its kind in Nova Scotia. Its main goal is to teach students from an Africentric lens. I have always had a deep passion for teaching the younger generation. Through the public education system in Nova Scotia, I remember learning very little about my heritage. This left me confused about my identity. Now, I take every opportunity possible to learn my history, and feel it is my duty to change this for future generations to come. In the words of Malcom X, “education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”.

SOURCES

The majority of the content included in this information package is sourced from *Black History: Africa, The Caribbean, and the Americas*.



