

African Architecture/Navigators/The White House!

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW: PARTS 1-4

Lesson Duration: 2-4 Class Periods (30-50 Minutes) for Each Section



World's oldest calendar "The Adam's Calendar"



World's oldest boat found in Nigeria



World's oldest stone structure in South Africa



Displayed quarried sandstone by enslaved Africans who built the Capitol in D.C. 1824-1826

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS:

1. Where are we going?
2. Where are we now in our understanding of this topic?
3. Why are we trying to discover more?
4. How will we get there?
5. How will we know we have arrived at any new understandings about this topic?

CONTENT THEME:

Students will study the similarities between ancient people and the technological knowledge that they used to build the pyramids, the twin temples of Karnak and Grand Lodge and the techniques used by enslaved and free Africans to build the White House, Capitol Building and engineering layout of Washington, D.C.

Part 1 Adam's Calendar-Discovering the Oldest Man-Made Structure and Earliest Civilization-South Africa's Lost Civilization

Part 2 Black Africans of Ancient Egypt/ First Boat Builders in Nigeria

Part 3 Diverse Architecture found throughout Africa/The Western Migration of those who built the Pyramids to Eastern Countries/Ancient Eredo

Part 4 Africans arrive in America/Use their Technological, Architectural and Astronomical skills toward the building of the White House and the layout of Washington, D.C.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION: LESSON 3B: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Students will study the similarities between ancient people and the technological knowledge that they used to build the pyramids, the twin temples of Karnak and Grand Lodge and the techniques used by enslaved and free Africans to build the White House, Capitol Building and engineering layout of Washington, D.C.

Current research explains that Egyptians traveled west and populated West Africa. This migratory process would develop the many nations of West Africa, within the countries we today call Senegambia, Mali, Bambara, Yoruba, Ibo, etc. When Africans were stolen from Africa, their descendants would be brought here with their knowledge inherited from Egypt. These black hands would assist in building the most important structures in America.

NEWSHOUR

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues-jan-june09-slaverydc_01-16/

Black hands not only built the White House in Washington, D.C., but they have also developed the architectural design of the Nation's Capitol. Benjamin Banneker, an African American descended from the Dogon people of Mali, West Africa, was an astronomer and agriculturalist. Although many give credit to Pierre L'Enfant from France, we now know that whoever designed



Washington, D.C. had to be an astronomer. Benjamin Banneker is credited with creating the first clock in America and he wrote the original Farmer's Almanac. Farmer's Almanacs rely heavily on astronomy and agriculture.

SANDSTONE MARKER



<https://www.aoc.gov/art/other/slave-labor-commemorative-marker>

This marker features a single block of *Aquia Creek* sandstone, which was originally part of the Capitol's East Front Portico, presented on a platform clad in Cedar Tavernalle *marble*. The original chisel marks on the *sandstone* are in view so visitors can see the physical effort required to hew the stone. A hole in the top of the stone was cut to receive a lifting ring used to raise the stone out of the quarry.

The site of the new capital city was located in an area that had few carpenters, bricklayers, stone cutters and other tradesmen necessary to construct such a project. Engineers and architects were brought in from



This display is located at the Capitol in Washington, D.C..



other areas, but the majority of the work fell upon the laborers in the area, who were comprised mostly of enslaved African Americans. These Africans, as well as other laborers, quarried the stone used for the floors, walls and columns of the Capitol,

sawed both wood and stone, and became skilled in brick making and laying. Carpentry was also one of the more significant contributions enslaved African Americans made to the construction of the Capitol as they framed the roof and installed its shingle covering.

One of the most significant contributions by an enslaved african was made by *Philip Reid*, who deciphered the puzzle of how to separate the five-piece plaster model of the *Statue of Freedom*. Today, he and countless others are recognized for the role they played in building this monumental and historic symbol of democracy.



The White House Lesson Plan will explore, compare and contrast the role that African people played in the construction of structures in Ancient Egypt and Colonial America.

This lesson aims to inspire and challenge its participants to explore the Architecture, knowledge of the astronomy of people in countries throughout the continent of Africa and the relation of this knowledge to architectural structures in the United States.

Author Interview:

“*The Black History of America’s White House*” Listen to Clarence Lusane as he traces the country’s race relations through the lens of the presidential home.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/03/133470777/liberty-limited-in-white-houses-black-history>

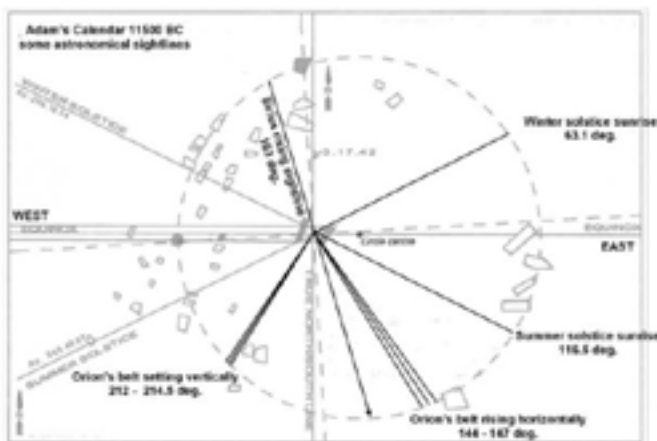
Video of John Lewis before congress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TILXVeFR1s>

ORGANIZATION: LESSON 3B: PARTS 1-4:

- Lesson 3B has been divided into 4 parts.
- Within each part are sections that support understandings about one of the topic areas.
- Section 1 in each of the four parts in Lesson 3B begins with a brief overview that includes:
 - ✓ Key Questions for each section
 - ✓ Instructional Materials for each sections
 - ✓ Activities for each sections
 - ✓ Vocabulary Words from each section
 - ✓ Background Information is placed at the beginning of each section.

**TITLES: LESSON 3B: PARTS 1-4:
PART 1: ANCIENT AFRICA**



- Section 1 Cradle of Civilization began in South Africa, Adam's Calendar
- Section 2 Evidence of African symbolism found in other parts of the World
- Section 3 Ancient symbolism connects Man to God through the Golden Ration, Phi
- Section 4 Ancient Africans engaged in mathematics, sciences, building with out mortar



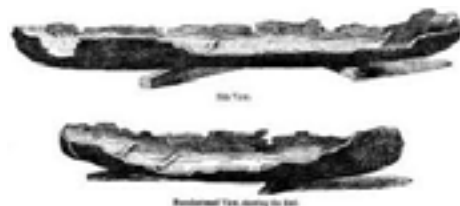
PART 2: ANCIENT EGYPT

- Section 1 Western Sahara, Gobero
- Section 2 Kiffan and Tenerean people in lived in Western Sahara
- Section 3 Great Zimbabwe
- Section 4 Black Africans in Egypt used their skills toward building the Great Pyramids

BENIN CITY: NIGERIA



The Great Wall of Benin
(Constructed between 800 - mid-1400s AD)
The largest man made structure in the world





PART 3: MIDDLE KINGDOM, GROUP MIGRATION

- Section 1 Diverse architecture found throughout the African Continent
- Section 2 The Western Migration of those who built the Pyramids to Eastern Countries
- Section 3 The World's oldest boat was found in Nigeria- The Dufuna Canoe

PART 4: AFRICAN ETHNIC MIGRATION TO THE U.S.

- Section 1 Different African ethnic groups with diverse skills from across Africa were unwillingly transported to the Americas carrying their customs, traditions and cultural knowledge with them.
- Section 2 The hands that built the pyramids also built the white house and capital building in Washington, D.C.



PLEASE NOTE: The material and content for *The Historic Journey: Yes We Can Lesson 3B*, comes from lessons that were developed by Kaba Hiawatha Kamane, a professor and educational consultant based in New York, N.Y. and Gwendolyn J. Crenshaw, a professor of Africana Studies at Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI). Their extensive travel, background and association with other noted scholars in the field of African American studies provide a framework for their development of the bulk of the content in this lesson. The materials found in this lesson have been adapted to fit the format of *The Historic Journey* teacher guide. The original lessons have additional graphics and worksheets that have not been incorporated here, but the essence of the text and a portion of the exercises are included for student use. A few additional materials have been added. This lesson is dedicated to their scholarship and vision.

