



1619 to Reconstruction - Public Art History Project (RSA)

Humanities - Unit 3: Divide and Conquer

Unit 3 Essential Questions:

How has race shaped people's membership in this nation from our founding to today? How far have we come?

Context

During this unit, we are exploring history centered around the experiences of Black people in the United States since 1619 - the first year that people from Africa were brought to this continent - through the end of the Reconstruction era in 1877. The institution of slavery and racist ideologies, laws, and practices used to justify it continue to impact our society in profound ways. We have learned about the depths of violence and dehumanization experienced by Black people during this period of time as well as the ways they, alongside their allies, resisted oppression and fought for liberation and their humanity.

As our core text for this unit, we are reading the *Kindred* Graphic Novel and discussing the ways that writers use both words and imagery to assert their ideas and to depict history. For this RSA, we will be using the *Kindred* Graphic Novel as a model for producing our Public Art (Black History Month Door Decorating) proposal

Project Description

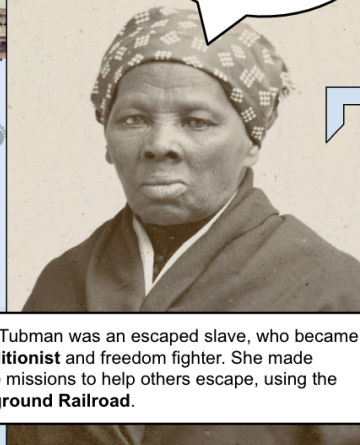
For this RSA, you will identify a historical figure, event, or law related to Black history from 1619 to the end of Reconstruction (1877). This history is one of intense pain and hardship, but it is also one of incredible resilience, resistance, and agency on the part of Black people struggling against oppression. This project will focus on that resistance, agency, and liberation.

You will conduct research on these topic/s using the 4 Historical Thinking Skills. After researching and building your knowledge about these people or events, you will create a Public Art proposal (modeled after graphic novels such as *Kindred*) that depicts the main aspects of your research. Ultimately, you will make a Black History Month door decorating proposal to your advisory. Your advisory will decide which door idea(s) to incorporate into their own.

Bree Newsome is a present day activist, known for taking down the S.C. state flag in an act of Civil Disobedience.



"When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything."

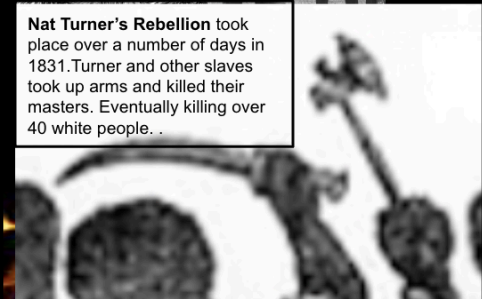


Harriet Tubman was an escaped slave, who became an **abolitionist** and freedom fighter. She made multiple missions to help others escape, using the **Underground Railroad**.

And my father and mother strengthened me in this my first impression, saying in my presence, I was intended for some great purpose, which they had always thought from certain marks on my head and breast."



Nat Turner's Rebellion took place over a number of days in 1831. Turner and other slaves took up arms and killed their masters. Eventually killing over 40 white people.





Part 1: Research

- Choose a historical person or event that represents FREEDOM, RESISTANCE, AND AGENCY from the era 1619 to the end of Reconstruction (1877)
- Use the 4 Historical Thinking Skills and Lateral Reading to research each of these people or events
 - o Research must include at least 3 different sources (4 sources for EXCEEDS)
 - o Complete the [research graphic organizer](#) to receive credit for your research
 - o Must properly cite all sources from research (APA style) in artist statement

Part 2: Public Art Project Proposal

After completing your research, you will create a visual proposal for your advisory's Black History month door design. Proposals should include elements of graphic novels as well as historical content. **The proposal should highlight African American resistance, agency, and/or inspiration.**

- Includes images and/or symbols
- Relevant QUOTE (speech bubble)
- NARRATION (info box)
- THOUGHTS (thought bubble)
- CONNECTION TO THE PRESENT
 - ("present" = 1960's/civil right movement through today)
- At least two vocabulary words or critical concepts from unit 3 (i.e., historiography, democracy, white supremacy, eugenics, reconstruction, secession)

Part 3: Artist Statement/Proposal Argument

After completing your proposal for a public art project, you will write a 300-500 word artist statement explaining the design and purpose for your project. Use the questions below to guide your artist statement:

- **Make an argument: Why do the figures and/or events deserve public attention today?** In order to make that argument, remember to:
 - **Clearly describe the topic** and historical context; Include your connection to the present.
 - **Explain how this topic is a symbol/example of resistance, freedom, and/or agency** (how did it/they make positive change?) How does the topic help us understand race in America.
 - **How did you use design elements** to highlight or emphasize your ideas?

Due	BENCHMARKS	Done?
Fri 2/9	Choose topic	
Mon 2/12	Research Source #1	
Tues 2/13	Research Source #2	
Thurs 2/15	Identify connection to person/topic today	
Tues 2/20	1st Draft of Door	
Wed 2/21	Share Draft with Advisory	Advisor initials:
Thurs 2/22	Research Sources #3: Primary Source	
Tues 2/27	First Draft of Artist Statement Revision	
Fri 3/1	Final Draft of Door & Artist Statement Due	