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.
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
  - Research must include at least 3 different sources (4 sources for EXCEEDS)
  - Complete the research graphic organizer to receive credit for your research
  - 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?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th>Done?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2/9</td>
<td>Choose topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2/12</td>
<td>Research Source #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 2/13</td>
<td>Research Source #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 2/15</td>
<td>Identify connection to person/topic today</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 2/20</td>
<td>1st Draft of Door</td>
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<td>Wed 2/21</td>
<td>Share Draft with Advisory</td>
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<td>Thurs 2/22</td>
<td>Research Sources #3: Primary Source</td>
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<td>Tues 2/27</td>
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<td>Fri 3/1</td>
<td>Final Draft of Door &amp; Artist Statement Due</td>
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