

00;00;15;22 - 00;00;40;36

Unknown

Greetings. I'm Dr. Bill Williams, professional development director for Engage in Creative Minds. We are a nonprofit in Charleston, South Carolina, where we focus on arts integrated tools for teachers and students all over the state of South Carolina. And today, we have an amazing series entitled From Slavery to the White House, From Property to President by one of our very own teaching artists.

00;00;40;43 - 00;01;12;46

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Miz and Caldwell. Get ready to be thrilled for her amazing techniques of song beats and storytelling as we hear about the history of African Americans right here in America. Stay tuned. Hi. My name's and Caldwell, and I'm here to share some notes that I've been taking on black history. And I'm going to do this and I've entitled my notes from Africa to the White House.

00;01;13;51 - 00;01;47;32

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I'm going to tell you my story, using my table, my hands, my feet, of course, my voice to tell you the journey of property to President. So let's get started. If you look into the history of black people, you will find slavery. Slavery came to the shores of America in the year 1619, when the Europeans came to the country to live.

00;01;48;31 - 00;02;22;14

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They discovered that Rice would grow in the low country, but they didn't know anything about growing rice. So in the year 1670, the settlers decided to use the natives of Africa to cultivate rice because the ancestors knew how to grow rice. Now slave is a property of another person and property is something that you own. Pigs, chickens. Goats.

00;02;22;14 - 00;02;57;53

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Cows, cats. Dogs. Chairs, tables, wagons. Bicycles, cell phones. Flat screen. TVs, boats, cars. Motorcycles are all property the African people brought to this country, the slave labor, were treated like property. Think about it. Property could be bought, sold, traded or given away as gifts. That is what was done with 12 million Africans that were brought to this country.

00;02;59;06 - 00;03;40;46

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Now, before Africans were enslaved, they were free. The African ancestors lived normal lives. The children went to school and the mothers and fathers worked in the fields and on farms. Now, you and I would have to go to a zoo to see the kinds of animals that the

Africans saw just roaming around freely in their native country. There were giraffes, zebras and elephants and baboons and crocodiles and gorillas and rhinoceroses and cheetahs and chimpanzees and tigers and lions.

00;03;41;56 – 00;04;15;47

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Slave traders would kidnap African men, women and children while they were working in the field or just walking along the road. Children were snatched while playing outside of their homes. Sometimes during a famine when there was hardly any food. Families would sell their children to get food. Now, the ancestors would then be forced to walk for miles to get to the ship.

00;04;16;07 – 00;04;48;02

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That would take them to the strange new world. When they came to the place where the ship was to dock. They were taken to a door called the door of no return. Now, once they pass through that door, they would never see their native land again. The ancestors were being taken to a place where they did not know the people and they did not speak the language.

00;04;48;32 – 00;05;07;17

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The journey aboard the ship across the Atlantic Ocean to America is called the Middle Passage. It is the journey from freedom to slavery. That journey could last up to three months.

00;05;11;34 – 00;06;45;33

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What they got can be water. They can be water. They go Cam. He can be far from home. Water care must sister. What does care? My brother. Oh, what? Oh, get him for. Oh, oh, oh. Way from home, Mara. Oh, they can hug my mother. Oh, neck. Oh, my mother. They can hug oh, they can oh from oh what a care my father Oh, what a care mother but oh what a hug him of God.

00;06;45;35 – 00;07;54;51

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Oh yeah. Him. Oh from. Oh what. Oh they're gonna give me what is going to be what. Oh dear God can be conquer me. I oh, oh, oh, oh can be oh from oh go me oh from oh. The African ancestors were placed in the bottom of the ship. Now, even though the children were allowed to run around on the deck in the presence of the women, it was still a terrible journey.

00;07;56;16 – 00;08;48;36

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Some became sick and died before they got to their destination, which

could be Brazil or the Caribbean. Gone. Cami Uh, from. Gone. Cami Uh, from oh. Now, after arriving to this new world, they would be taken to an auction block. None. Auction block is a block of wood where something was place to be sold. There'd be this man with this big voice, and he'd say, The pit is high, can't go low bid, best bidding, slow sold.

00;08;49;58 - 00;09;28;03

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Now remember the answer is were now property and property could be bought, sold, traded and given away as gifts. Now, after the auction block, the African was taken to a plantation. Now, plantation is an area of land where one or more crops is planted and cultivated by slave labor. The plantation was where the ancestors were expected to live and work for the rest of their lives.

00;09;29;34 - 00;10;06;08

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They would have to cook clean care for children, work in the fields and tend to animals and whatever else the plantation owner wanted them to do from sunup to sundown. Now, enslaved children were used to fetch water, to clean, to serve meals and tend to the chickens and help with other adult chores. Now sometimes they were put at the gate of the plantation to open and close it as people came in and out.

00;10;07;36 - 00;10;36;31

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Now for fun the boys would play with marbles and that were made out of clay, and the girls would use rags and pine needles and maybe some strings to make what we call doll babies. Now, the language of the ancestors is called Gullah. It is the combination of the English language that the ancestors heard and the African based expressions that they knew, for instance.

00;10;37;00 - 00;11;06;53

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Yet what I see that means. Did you hear what I said? Another one would be she unraveled. She unraveled she mouth. That means she talked a lot. Another one was a crack. You tease. That would probably be the opposite. She didn't say anything. Now the ancestors also had a different way of making music. The songs the ancestors would sing were called spirituals.

00;11;06;53 - 00;11;50;24

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They're called spirituals because of the deep religious feelings they express. They would use these songs when they gathered together in camp meetings and the prayer house. Now they would sing these songs to make themselves happy because you see the spirituals, as is the music of an unhappy people. Sometimes a theme Go Motherless Child. Oh,

sometime I feel like a motherless.

00;11;50;35 - 00;13;28;24

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Uh, sometimes I feel like a model is, uh, such a long way from home. Sometime I feel like almost gone some. Sometime I feel like all boats go home. Sometimes I feel like, oh, both go such a long way from oh, such a long way from home. Whoo hoo hoo hoo hoo. Ooh hoo ooh ooh ooh.

00;13;28;24 - 00;14;22;31

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Sometime I feel like a motherless child. Some come up I go motherless, uh, some come up like a model is, uh, such a long way from home. Such, uh oh. We from home now. The rhythm of the music was also used in the fields to set the pace of work. When ancestors sang fast, the song was fast and they worked fast.

00;14;22;31 - 00;15;54;59

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When the song was sung slower, the pace of work was slower and sometimes that pace would be slowed down simply because they had to rest but could not stop working. Raw level angel. Coming down, coming down. Coming down. Drop level. The angel coming down. Down to the ground. Oh, drop member draw. Roll around me on top. Whoa, drop them draw, draw till they break D draw level the angel coming down, coming down, coming down draw level the angel level coming down Down to the ground Draw the draw draw me out to o draw oh no draw draw till the break d Now sometimes in the praise services they would use kind of the the double

00;15;54;59 - 00;16;59;37

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tap with the stick whenever they did the the chorus so the refrain o member draw 00000000 draw member draw o craftily break on d draw level d angel level coming down, coming down, coming down, draw level the angel coming down, down to the hero. Oh, yeah. Now some of the songs had secret meanings, and they talked about escaping from slavery.

00;17;00;44 - 00;17;34;16

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Now, the way of escape from slavery is called the Underground Railroad. Now, that wasn't really a railroad, and it wasn't really underground. What it was was the journey from slavery back to freedom. Remember that the ancestors made the Middle Passage, which was the journey from freedom to slavery. Now the ancestors were always in the habit of using code words to describe the process of escaping from slavery.

00;17;35;21 - 00;18;05;01

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The code name for the make believe train was called the Chariot. Now the code name for Canada, which is where they wanted to go, was called Home Heaven. Canaan or Promised Land. Now the guides along the way were called conductors, and the most famous conductor was Harriet Tubman. Her code name was Moses. Those who escaped from slavery use the Big Dipper to guide them.

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The code word for the big Dipper was the drinking gourd to the ancestors. The Big Dipper looked like a drinking gourd. The handle of the gourd pointed to the north where freedom was. Follow the drinking or follow the drinking and go for you old man is waiting for it Carry you to freedom Follow the drink and go When the sun comes back and the first squirrel calls Follow the drink and go For the old man is waiting for it Carry you to freedom Follow the drink and go riverbank Make a very good road The dead trees are sure you do Way left foot peg foot travelin Oh follow the drinkin Go O Follow the drinking

00;19;22;50 - 00;20;28;08

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Go follow the drinkin Go What you all mad is all waitin for it How you do freedom Follow the drink and oh follow drinkin Oh follow the drinkin Go After many, many years of living in slavery Something awesome, amazing and wonderful happened in the year 1865 to 146 years later, the Civil War had ended and slavery was abolished.

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This meant that the ancestors were no longer property. They could live as free people. On June 19th, the ancestors could celebrate the first anniversary of what was called Juneteenth. It's the combination of the month of June and the number 19. It was a celebration of the emancipation of the enslaved African in America. They were happy. Woke up this morning with but they don't read all woke up this morning with mama they don't really know woke up this morning.

00;21;15;06 - 00;22;07;14

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Well my mother they don't read on the same hallelujah in there. Well I walk in and I'm talking with mama but they don't read on I'm walking and I'm talking with my mind Settle free to walk in I'm talking with Mama Jerome Freedom. Oh, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Hey, nothing wrong with my mind said oh, freedom ain't nothing wrong with Mama said freedom and nothing wrong with my mind set on freedom Hallelujah And then holler who.

00;22;08;02 - 00;22;36;16

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Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. I'm seeing it and I'm praying with my mother's dead on freedom. Singing with my mama that I read on CNN I'm praying with mama. That old freedom's in there. That in there. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

00;22;38;36 - 00;23;29;17

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Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Even though slavery was behind them, there were still black codes and Jim Crow and Great Migration all on the horizon. The the journey of from Africa to the White House will continue. In part two, I'm singing and I'm praying with my mind state on freedom singing and I'm brand with my mindset on freedom singing and I'm praying with my mind set on freedom.

00;23;29;52 - 00;24;21;59

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Man I'll do it, man Hey, man. Hallelu, man. Hallelu in mentality. Mu Wow. That was riveting. I hope you felt what I felt during her performance and also as she shared the information of the history of African-Americans. Stay tuned as we continue through each of her series from Africa to the White House as we learn about the history of African-Americans right here in our very own United States of America.

00;24;22;17 - 00;24;24;48

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Thank you so much for watching and we'll see you next time.