



SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

At-Home Learning Initiative
scetv.org/athomelearning

Penn Center: A Legacy of Change

Target Audience
6 - 12th grades

Programming: Penn Center: A Legacy of Change

Assignment(s): Watch the broadcast and answer the questions/conduct the activities below.

Discussion Questions:

1. Write a summary of the film that highlights the importance of Penn Center.
2. Dr. Emory Campbell states, “The schooling that Penn Center offered early on was a way to liberation.” Explain what he means that schooling lead to liberation, especially for formally enslaved people.
3. By the early twentieth century, Penn Center changed their curriculum to include agriculture and trades education. The curriculum offerings were different for males than females. Why do you think the curriculum was different for males and females?
4. During the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. decided to come to Penn Center. What factors lead to that decision?
5. Describe the role of Penn Center during Reconstruction and the Civil Rights Movement. How was Penn Center’s roles different during these times? How were its roles similar?
6. Describe the Gullah/Geechee National Heritage Act. Be sure to include the geographic area covered, the congressman who introduced the bill, and the importance of the act.
7. What is the significance of Penn Center being recognized as a National Landmark District? What all does that entail?

Activities:

1. Imagine that you were a student at Penn Center during the early to late 1900’s. You are about to enter high school and it’s time to decide what trade or skill to study. Choose one of the many trades and skills taught at Penn Center discussed in the film. Write an essay discussing which trade you want to learn, why you want to learn that skill, what are the details about the skill, and why is that skill important for that time period? Also, include how your skill or trade is different today than it was then?
2. Image that a major real estate developer has made a bid to tear down Penn Center and develop condominiums on the property. It is up to you to write a letter to your elected official convincing them why we need to preserve Penn Center. Include the following important details in your letter: the history of Penn Center, the importance of Gullah/Geechee culture, the importance of Penn Center, why history should be preserved, and what Penn Center means to the community and its alumni. Be sure to include actual quotes from the film in your letter to support your argument.