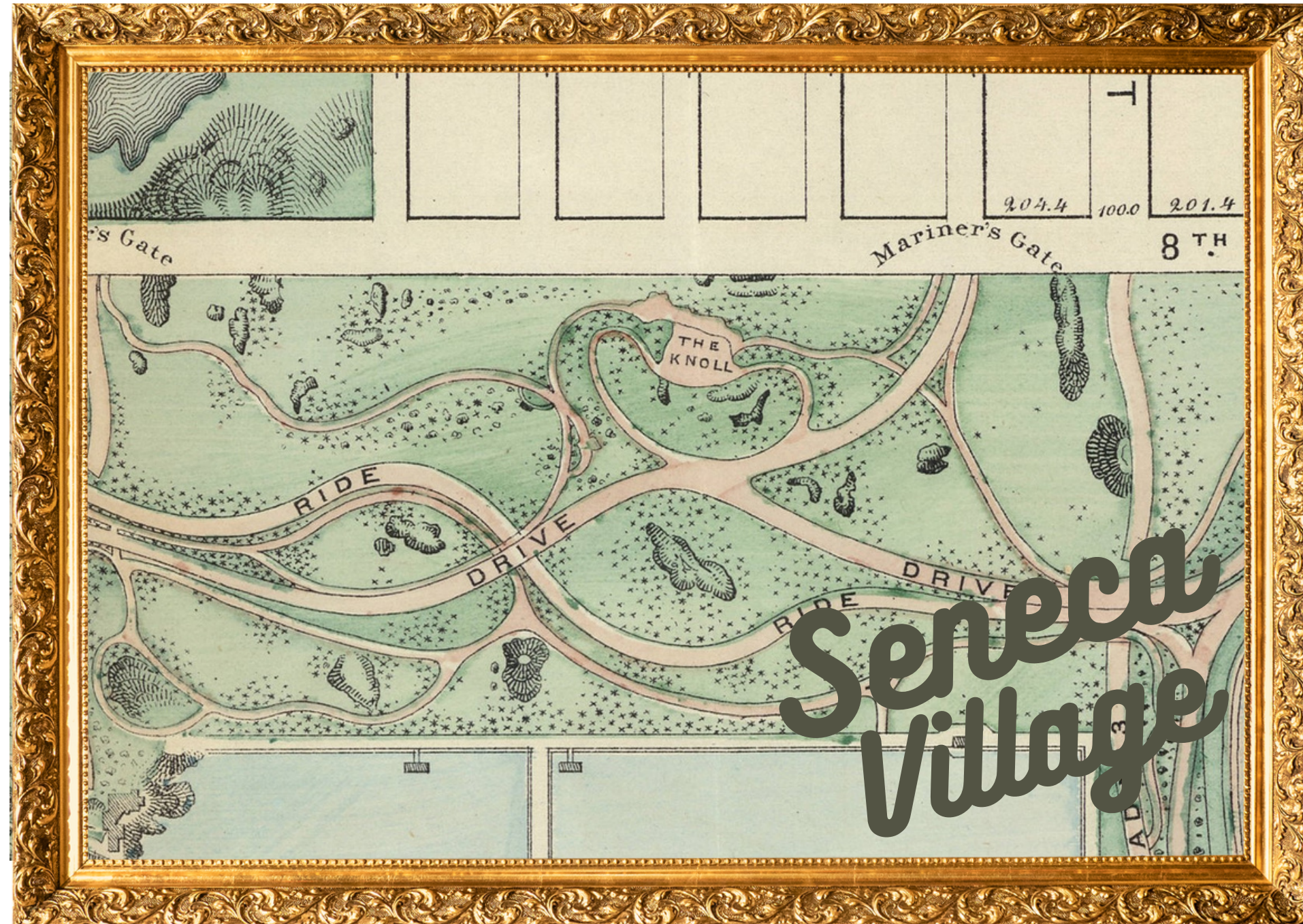


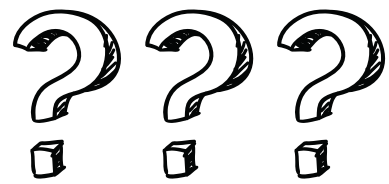
SENECA VILLAGE

A FREE BLACK COMMUNITY IN MANHATTAN



LESSON 1: PAST

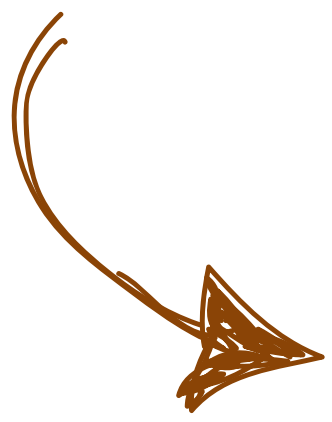
WHAT MAKES THIS A
POWERFUL QUOTE?



"We must never forget that Black History is American History. The achievements of African Americans have contributed to our nation's greatness."

– Yvette Clarke, U.S. congresswoman





OBJECTIVE:

To identify Seneca Village on a map and make connections between Seneca Village and what is now Central Park, understanding the significance of Seneca Village for the Black community and its impact on Black American history and culture.



A Handrawn Map of Seneca Village, the 1800s Settlement in New York's Central Park- [Andy Proehl](#)





GUIDING QUESTIONS:

What do we already know about Seneca Village?

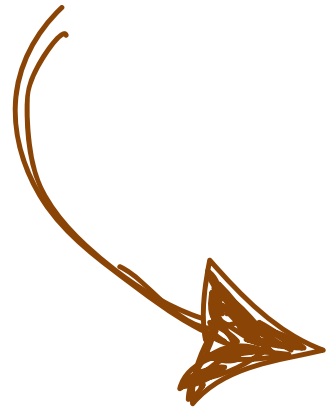
What was life like in Seneca Village?

What happened to the village and its residents?

What can we learn from the history of Seneca Village?

What were the contributions of Seneca Village residents to the city and the impact their removal had on the city's development?





TAKE NOTES!

Individually or in your small group, use the guiding questions to write out what you already know about Seneca Village. Think about all that you don't know and try to begin answering the guided questions using Lesson 1 resources.

Be sure to jot points that connect back to major turning points in New York State or American history.



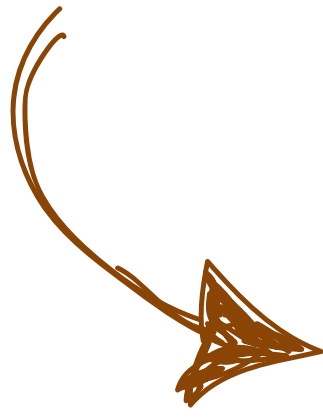


PUSHING THOUGHT:

What are the demographics of Seneca Village and the social and economic conditions of its residents? Is that similar or different from what you already knew?

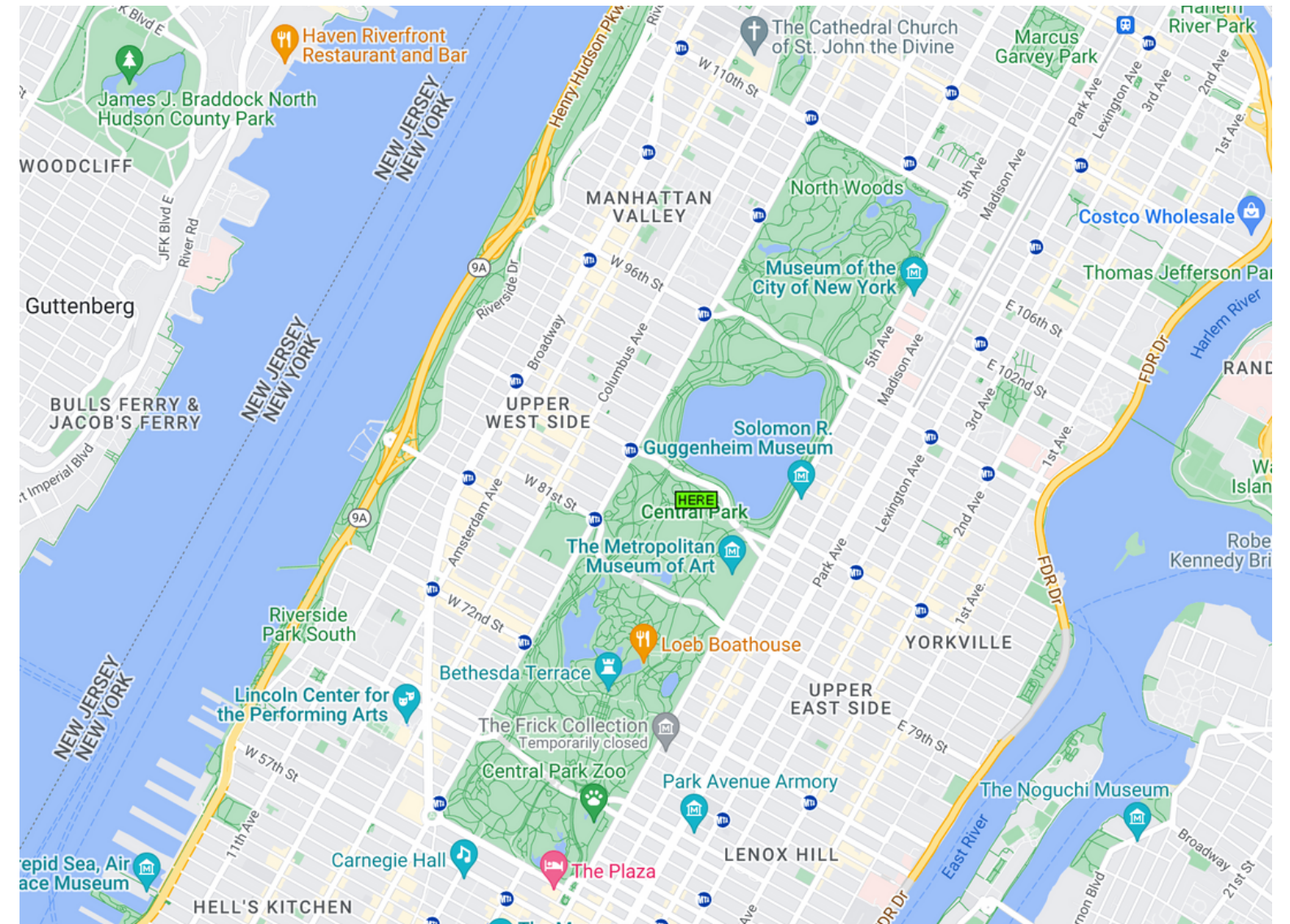
Was Seneca Village the only enclave of free Black people in NYC?





ACTIVITY:

- ➔ Go to Google Maps and zoom into a modern map of Central Park.
- ➔ Seek out the location where Seneca Village once existed. Can you find it?
- ➔ Reflect on the significance of your ability to find this location easily right now.
- ➔ Keep this map to continue their Seneca Village journey.





CREATIVE EXTENSION:

- ➔ Seneca Village was a predominantly Middle-Class African-American community with more than 200 residents, most residing in approximately 52 two-story wood frame houses. Seneca Village had its own Churches, a school, barns, and more. **Create a drawing of what you think Seneca Village looked like at its prime.**



LESSON 2: PRESENT

WHAT MAKES THIS A
POWERFUL QUOTE?



“

“A people without knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.”

”

-Marcus Garvey





GUIDING QUESTIONS:

What made Seneca Village a strong community?

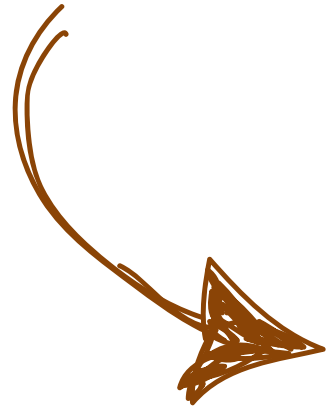
In what ways do the landmarks and monuments found in Seneca Village honor their rich history?

What do the records and findings of Seneca Village tell us?

Why was Seneca Village torn down?

How did the creation of today's Central Park impact the identity of Seneca Village?





OBJECTIVE:

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the history of Seneca Village by exploring the physical landmarks and monuments in Central Park that commemorate the community and its residents.

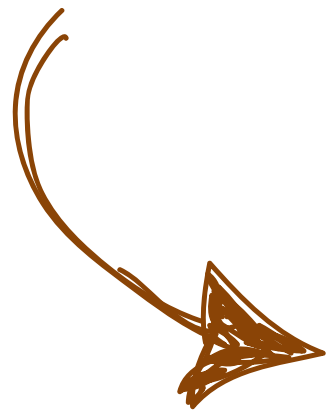


Seneca Village: Hidden History of The Upper West Side

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group has announced Hidden History of The Upper West Side: Seneca Village, a free presentation by Philip Andrew Stein,

 New York Almanack / Oct 22, 2020





TAKE NOTES!

With your guide, **review** the map of Central Park pointing out the locations of the various landmarks and monuments related to Seneca Village. Make a notation of the particular areas you would really like to see.



SENECA VILLAGE

Explore the history, community, and landscape of Seneca Village in a series of interpretive signs installed inside Central Park near the West 80s. Begin at the kiosk located near the Park entrance at Central Park West and 85th Street. Then visit the 16 signs installed throughout the area, in the order suggested.

MAP KEY

-  Welcome Information
-  Introduction
-  1 AME Zion Church
-  2 African Union Church
-  3 The Wilson House
-  4 All Angels' Church
-  5 Irish Americans
-  6 Summit Rock
-  7 Lanes, Lots, and Streets
-  8 Housing
-  9 Tanner's Spring
-  10 The Receiving Reservoir
-  11 Livelihoods
-  12 Geology
-  13 The Reservoir Keepers
-  14 Downtown Connections
-  15 Andrew Williams
-  16 Gardens





TAKE NOTES!

EXPLORE: As a class, break up into small subgroups or pairs with your assigned chaperone. As a group, find as many of the landmarks and monuments related to Seneca Village. As you locate each place on the map, take a photo and jot down some information about what you learned on your scavenger hunt worksheet. Don't forget to work collaboratively, sharing information and discussing your findings as you go.





REFLECT:

- What did you find interesting about your tour today?
- What landmark/monument was of most interest to you and why?
- How could the artifacts discovered at the Seneca Village site tell us more about the social status of the community who lived there?
- What are some wonderings you have after today?





CREATIVE EXTENSION:

- ➔ On your walking tour of the former Seneca Village site, **create an observational drawing of a landmark or monument you found interesting. Next to your drawing, write about which landmark/monument you chose to draw and what you learned about it.**





CREATIVE EXTENSION (VIRTUAL):

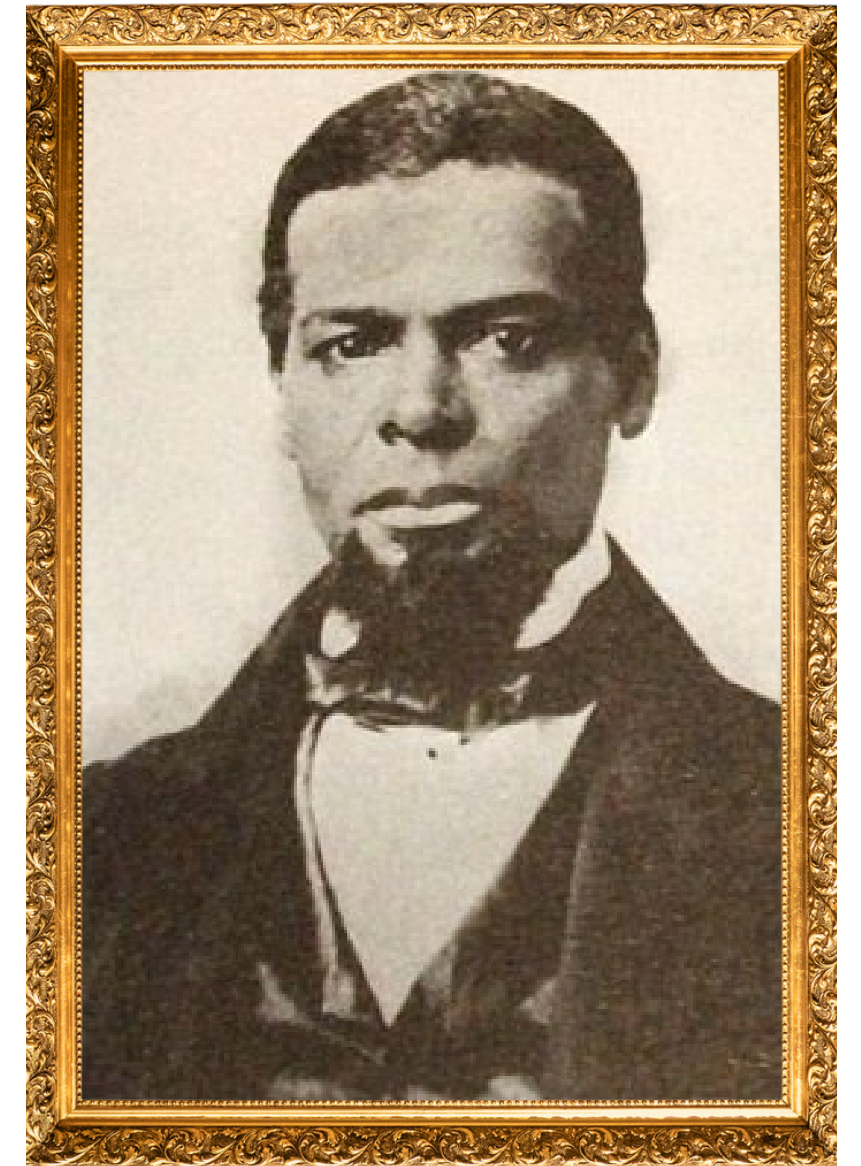


Several artifacts were excavated from the Seneca Village dig site helping determine more about the community who lived there. **Create a drawing of an artifact you can imagine may have been excavated at the Seneca Village site. What would it have looked like? What would've been its function?**



WHO IS ANDREW WILLIAMS? CREATIVE EXTENSION:

➔ Andrew Williams, a 25-year-old African-American shoeshiner, bought the first three lots for \$125. Epiphany Davis, a store clerk, bought 12 lots for \$578, and the AME Zion Church purchased another six lots. From there a community was born. Andrew Williams was one of a number of African Americans who were free. A pioneer during his time, he was one of the early settlers of Seneca Village- there in the very beginning and in the very end. He protested when residents were forced to leave Seneca Village. This was a difficult time for African Americans to survive- let alone be free. A man who owned property, a man who was able to vote, a man who was determined to be successful in his community and for his family. A man who changed history.





WHO IS ANDREW WILLIAMS? CREATIVE EXTENSION:

➔ Many positive words can be used to describe the character of Andrew Williams such as: **Determined** * **Smart** * **Persistent** * **Resilient** * **Forward Thinking** * **Hard Working**

ACTIVITY: What are some words you can use to describe yourself? What are some dreams you have in the future that you would like to achieve? Create a portrait of yourself using drawing tools (alternatively, student pictures can be printed out). Using handwritten text or cut-out letters and words, fill the blank space in your portrait with positive character traits that describe you as an individual. Also, write down some of the dreams you have to change your community and achieve success.

