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Historical Memory

The featured articles in this issue focus on remembering two of the greatest social reformers and activists of the 19th century. Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass loom large in American historical memory. From a Hall of Fame for Great Americans to busts of prominent individuals, these articles detail the honor bestowed on historical figures and how those honors influence the way we perceive the past.

Compelling Question

How do we remember the past?

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:
- identify, describe, and evaluate evidence about events from diverse sources
- analyze evidence in terms of content, authorship, point of view, bias, purpose, format, and audience
- make inferences and draw conclusions from evidence
- create meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past by fusing disparate and relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources and drawing connections to the present
- identify, describe, and contrast the roles of the individual in opportunities for social and political participation in different societies

Selections

Aunt Susan’s Place: A suffrage foremother is honored in a now faded architectural gem
By Kate Culkin

Preserving Family Memories by Remembering an Icon: Rochester Blackalls are descended from a long line of anti-slavery activists. By Sally Parker

This guide includes supporting questions to guide students in the reading of the article and analysis questions for understanding the primary sources. All educational materials are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework. The Learning Objectives are taken directly from the Social Studies Practices and the content fits within the Framework.
AUNT SUSAN’S PLACE
A SUFFRAGE FOREMOTHER IS HONORED IN A NOW FADED ARCHITECTURAL GEM

Setting the Stage
Compelling Question: How is Susan B. Anthony remembered?
https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nyh17.socst.elem.suffrage/upstate-downstate-the-womens-movement/#.WsN2BS7waM8

Guided Reading Questions
1. When was Susan B. Anthony elected into the Hall of Fame for Great Americans (HFGA)?
2. What is the HFGA?
3. What are the qualifications to be honored in the HFGA?
4. What steps did women take to get Anthony elected into the HFGA?
5. How was Anthony honored in the HFGA?
6. How does Susan B. Anthony’s election to the Hall of Fame of Great Americans influence the way she is remembered?
Document Analysis: Remembering Historical Figures

Analysis

1. Describe the building in this photograph.

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the purpose of this building?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

3. How does the design reflect the purpose of the building?

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__________________________________________________________________________________________

4. What happened to this building over the course of the 20th century?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How does this building affect the way Americans remember the past?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
Preserving Family Memories by Remembering an Icon

Setting the Stage

Compelling Question: How is Frederick Douglass remembered?

https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/096b4705-e034-43ea-8ad8-e02a991b2515/frederick-douglass-orator-editor-and-abolitionist-video/#.WsN9YS7waM8

Guided Reading Questions

1. What memories did Gertrude Blackall have of Frederick Douglass?

2. What was the connection between the Blackall family and Frederick Douglass?

3. Why were the letters from the Blackalls so important to Frederick Douglass?

4. How did Douglass feel about Rochester, NY?

5. How is Douglass’ connection to Rochester remembered?

6. How do busts and photographs influence the way historical figures are remembered?
Document Analysis: Remembering Frederick Douglass

Analysis

1. Describe the photograph on page 15 and give your impression of Frederick Douglass based on this image.

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Describe the image of the bust on page 17 and give your impression of Frederick Douglass based on this image.

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_________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Compare the two images and their influence on how Frederick Douglass is remembered?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Would you want to be remembered based on a bust or a photograph of yourself? Explain.

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How do busts and photographs influence the way historical figures are remembered?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________