

The HISTORICA-DOMINION INSTITUTE in partnership with TD BANK GROUP presents

BLACK HISTORY *in* CANADA EDUCATION GUIDE

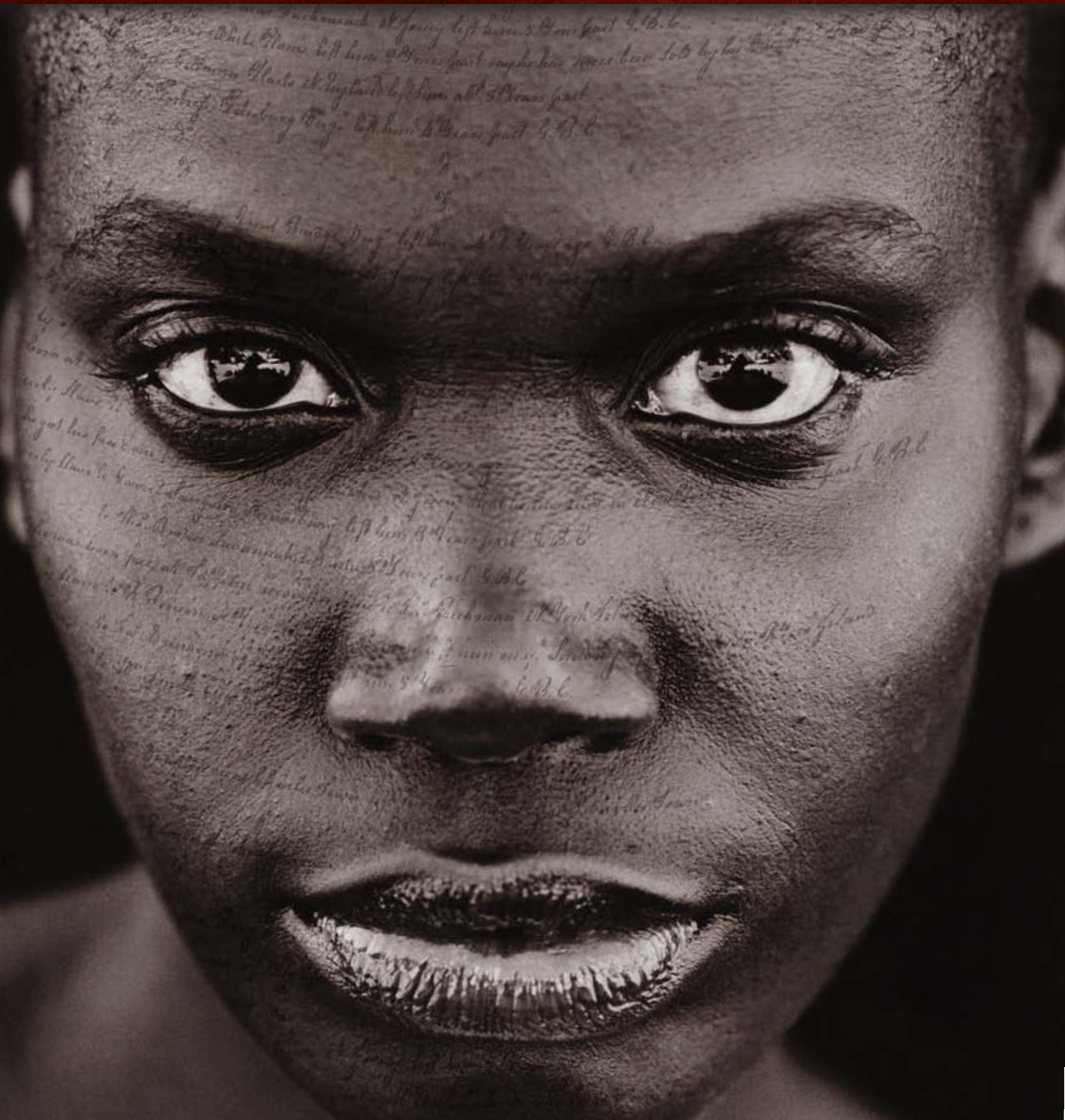


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THE BLACK HISTORY PORTAL

Find additional activities and resources on the Black History Portal blackhistorycanada.ca



a MESSAGE to TEACHERS

THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO CANADIAN HISTORY, IDENTITY and citizenship, **The Historica-Dominion Institute** is committed to bringing the stories and experiences of Canada into the classroom. This innovative Education Guide explores seminal events and personalities in Black Canadian history through engaging discussion and interactive activities. It was made possible with the generous support of TD Bank Group, whose commitment to Black history and culture has been celebrated. The purpose of this Guide is to enhance your students' knowledge and appreciation of the Black Canadian experience, drawing from Lawrence Hill's award-winning historical fiction, *The Book of Negroes*, the remarkable journey of Aminata Diallo and the historic British document known as the "Book of Negroes." Structured around themes of journey, slavery, human rights, passage to Canada and contemporary culture, this Guide asks students to examine issues of identity, equality, community, and nation-building in both a historical and contemporary context. The tools provided here are supplemented with additional activities and resources at the Black History Portal blackhistorycanada.ca. We hope this Guide will assist you in teaching this important aspect of Canadian history in your English, Social Studies, History or Law classroom.

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a MESSAGE from Award-Winning Author
LAWRENCE HILL

"I must earnestly entreat your assistance, without servants nothing can be done ... Black Slaves are certainly the only people to be depended upon ... pray therefore if possible procure for me two Stout Young fellows ... {and} buy for each a clean young wife, who can wash and do the female offices about a farm, I shall begrudge no price..."

THESE LINES COME FROM A LETTER WRITTEN IN 1763 TO JOHN WATTS IN NEW YORK. Who do you think wrote the letter? Perhaps a farmer in Barbados, South Carolina, or Virginia? Actually, this urgent request for slaves came from James Murray, Governor of Quebec.

The average sixteen-year-old in Canada can tell you something about slavery and abolition in the United States. Many of us have read American novels such as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Roots*.

But have we read our own authors such as Dionne Brand, Afua Cooper and George Elliott Clarke? Do we know that the story of African-Canadians spans four hundred years, and includes slavery, abolition, pioneering, urban growth, segregation, the civil rights movement and a long engagement in civic life?

I wrote the novel *The Book of Negroes* to remove the dehumanizing mask of slavery and to explore an African woman's intimate experiences and emotions as she travels the world in the 18th century. I like to think that there is a novel for every one of the 3,000 Black Loyalists whose names were entered into the British naval ledger known as the "Book of Negroes" and who then – as a reward for service to the British on the losing side of the American Revolutionary War – were sent by ship from Manhattan to Nova Scotia in 1783. Imagining Aminata Diallo's life helped me appreciate the struggles of the 18th century Black Loyalists as they travelled back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, touching down in colonial America, early Canada, West Africa and Europe in pursuit of freedom and home. Luckily for writers and readers, fiction helps us see where we have been and who we are now.

SYNOPSIS: THE BOOK OF NEGROES

ABDUCTED AS AN 11-YEAR-OLD CHILD FROM HER VILLAGE IN WEST AFRICA and forced to walk for months to the sea in a coffe—a string of slaves—Aminata Diallo is sent to live as a slave in South Carolina. Years later, she forges her way to freedom, serving the British in the Revolutionary War and registering her name in the historic "Book of Negroes." This book, an actual document, provides a short but immensely revealing record of some 3,000 Black Loyalists who left the United States for resettlement in Nova Scotia. A trained bookkeeper, Aminata is enlisted to record the names of these African-Americans travelling to Nova Scotia in pursuit of land and a new way of life. But when the Loyalists arrive in Canada in 1783, they find that the haven they'd been seeking is steeped in an oppression all its own.

Aminata is among the pioneers of Nova Scotia to settle Shelburne and the neighbouring Black community of Birchtown. Her journey from slavery to liberation, and her struggle against a world hostile to her colour and her sex, speaks to the experience of a founding generation of African-Canadians.

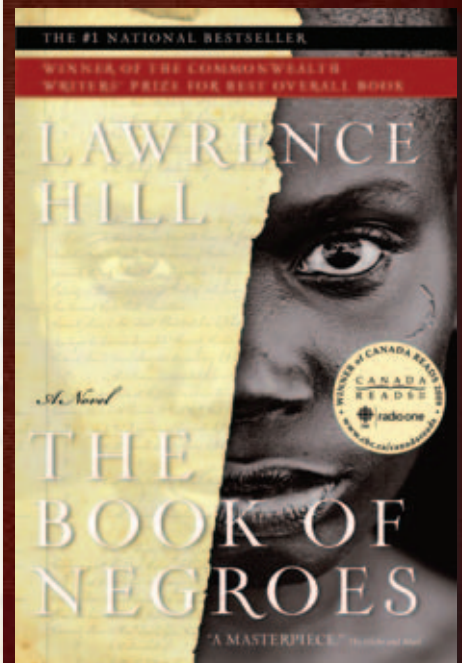
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ① How would you feel to be taken from your homeland, never to return?
- ② How is the concept of dislocation central to servitude in the experience of enslaved Africans like Aminata?
- ③ Consider the meaning of freedom. Is it signified by the absence of physical captivity, or are there other requirements to true freedom?



Lawrence Hill

LISA SAKULENKSY



BLACK HISTORY



1790

IMPERIAL STATUTE

The Imperial Statute of 1790 effectively allowed settlers to bring enslaved persons to Upper Canada. Under the statute, the enslaved had only to be fed and clothed.

22 July 1796

THE MAROONS LAND AT HALIFAX

A group of 600 freedom-fighters called Maroons landed at Halifax. These immigrants came from the Jamaican community of escaped slaves, who had guarded their freedom for more than a century and fought off countless attempts to re-enslave them.

1812-1815

THE "COLOURED TROOPS" & THE WAR OF 1812

Thousands of Black volunteers fought for the British during the War of 1812.



1605

FIRST BLACK IN CANADA

The first Black person thought to have set foot on Canadian soil was Mathieu Da Costa, a free man who was hired as a translator for Samuel de Champlain's 1605 excursion.

1709

LOUIS XIV AUTHORIZES SLAVERY IN NEW FRANCE

King Louis XIV formally authorized slavery, when he permitted his Canadian subjects to own slaves, "in full proprietorship."



1776

"FREE NEGROES" REACH NOVA SCOTIA

The British promised land, freedom and rights to slaves and free Blacks in exchange for service during the American Revolution, 1775-1783.

26-27 July 1784

CANADA'S FIRST RACE-RIOT ROCKS NOVA SCOTIA

The Black Loyalists were among the first settlers in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. On its fringes they established their own community, Birchtown. When hundreds of White, disbanded soldiers found themselves competing for jobs with Black neighbours who were paid less for the same work, hostilities caused a riot.



15 January 1792

THE BLACK LOYALIST EXODUS

The difficulty of supporting themselves in the face of widespread discrimination convinced almost 1,200 Black Loyalists to leave Halifax and relocate to Africa (Sierra Leone).



19 June 1793

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE'S ANTI-SLAVE TRADE BILL

Attorney General White introduced Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe's anti-slavery measure and it passed, although it was not a total ban on slavery but a gradual prohibition.



1815 - 1860

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Canada's reputation as a safe haven for Blacks grew during and after the War of 1812. Between 1815 and 1860, tens of thousands of African-Americans sought refuge in Canada via the legendary Underground Railroad.

28 August 1833

BRITISH PARLIAMENT ABOLISHES SLAVERY

Slavery was abolished throughout the British colonies by an Imperial Act which became effective 1 August 1834. Many Canadians continue to celebrate August 1 as Emancipation Day.

26 February 1851

FORMATION OF CANADIAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

The number of abolitionist sympathizers grew in Canada in the 1850s-1860s. The Anti-Slavery Society of Canada was formed, "to aid in the extinction of Slavery all over the world."



"VIEW OF THE FULL TOWN AND PLANTATIONS ABOUT IT," AN EXAMPLE OF AN AFRICAN VILLAGE / TRACY W. MCGREGOR LIBRARY OF AMERICAN HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY.
"BEDFORD BASIN NEAR HALIFAX," CA. 1835, BY ROBERT PETLEY / LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, A BLACK WOODCUTTER AT SHELBURNE, NOVA SCOTIA 1788, BY W. BOOTH,
W. BOOTH / W. H. COVERDALE COLLECTION, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA, BLACK FLEET FROM NOVA SCOTIA ENROUTE TO FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE SKETCHED BY JOHN CLARKSON /
GV CLARKSON, MANUSCRIPTS, NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PORTRAIT OF JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE BY JEAN LAURENT MOSNIER, / COURTESY OF TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

STILL FROM UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HERITAGE MINUTE / THE HISTORICAL DOMINION INSTITUTE

in CANADA TIMELINE

16 November 1857

WILLIAM NEILSON HALL WINS VICTORIA CROSS

William Hall served aboard the frigate *Shannon* in Calcutta during the 1857 Indian Mutiny. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first Canadian naval recipient, the first Black and the first Nova Scotian to win the prestigious medal.

1866

FIRST BLACK POLITICIAN IN CANADA

Mifflin Gibbs was elected to the Victoria Town Council in 1866, the first Black politician in Canada.



February 1911

ANTI-BLACK CAMPAIGN

By 1909, hundreds of Oklahoma Blacks had moved to the Canadian Prairies, where they met severe discrimination. In 1911, a few newspapers in Winnipeg even predicted that the Dominion government would move to exclude "Negro immigrants."

1914-1918

BLACK CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

In 1916, military officials authorized the creation of the No. 2 Construction Battalion. This all-Black battalion served in France with the Canadian Forestry Corps. Black Canadians at home also became actively involved in the war effort.

1939-1945

BLACK CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Canadian military initially rejected Black volunteers, but many Blacks were later accepted into the Regular Army and officer corps. On the home front, the all-Black Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was one of the greatest success stories of the war years.

14 March 1944

ONTARIO PASSES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT

Ontario was the first province to respond to social change when it passed the Racial Discrimination Act of 1944, landmark legislation prohibiting the publication and display of any symbol, sign, or notice that expressed ethnic, racial, or religious discrimination.



18 April 1946

JACKIE ROBINSON PLAYS HIS FIRST GAME FOR THE MONTREAL ROYALS

When he joined the Montreal Royals, Jackie Robinson became the first Black player in modern "organized" baseball. To view a Heritage Minute on Jackie Robinson, visit blackhistorycanada.ca.

18 January 1958

WILLIE O'REE BREAKS THE RACE BARRIER ON THE ICE

Scouted from the Quebec Aces, Willie O'Ree was the first Black player in the NHL. He played for the Boston Bruins, and his first game was against the Montreal Canadiens.

25 September 1963

FIRST BLACK ELECTED TO A CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

Leonard Braithwaite became the first African-Canadian in a provincial legislature when he was elected as the Liberal member for Etobicoke, Ontario in 1963.

October 1971

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU INTRODUCES CANADA'S MULTICULTURAL POLICY

Canada's multiculturalism policy grew partly in reaction to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.

1974

OSCAR PETERSON WINS GRAMMY

Jazz pianist Oscar Peterson won his first Grammy in 1974. He went on to win seven others, including the coveted Lifetime Achievement Grammy in 1997.

6 August 1995

CANADIAN SPRINTER BECOMES "WORLD'S FASTEST HUMAN"

Oakville's Donovan Bailey assumed the title of "World's Fastest Human" by winning the 100-metre sprint at the World Track Championships at Göteborg, Sweden. Bailey went on to win gold at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, setting a new world and Olympic record (9.84 seconds).



27 September 2005

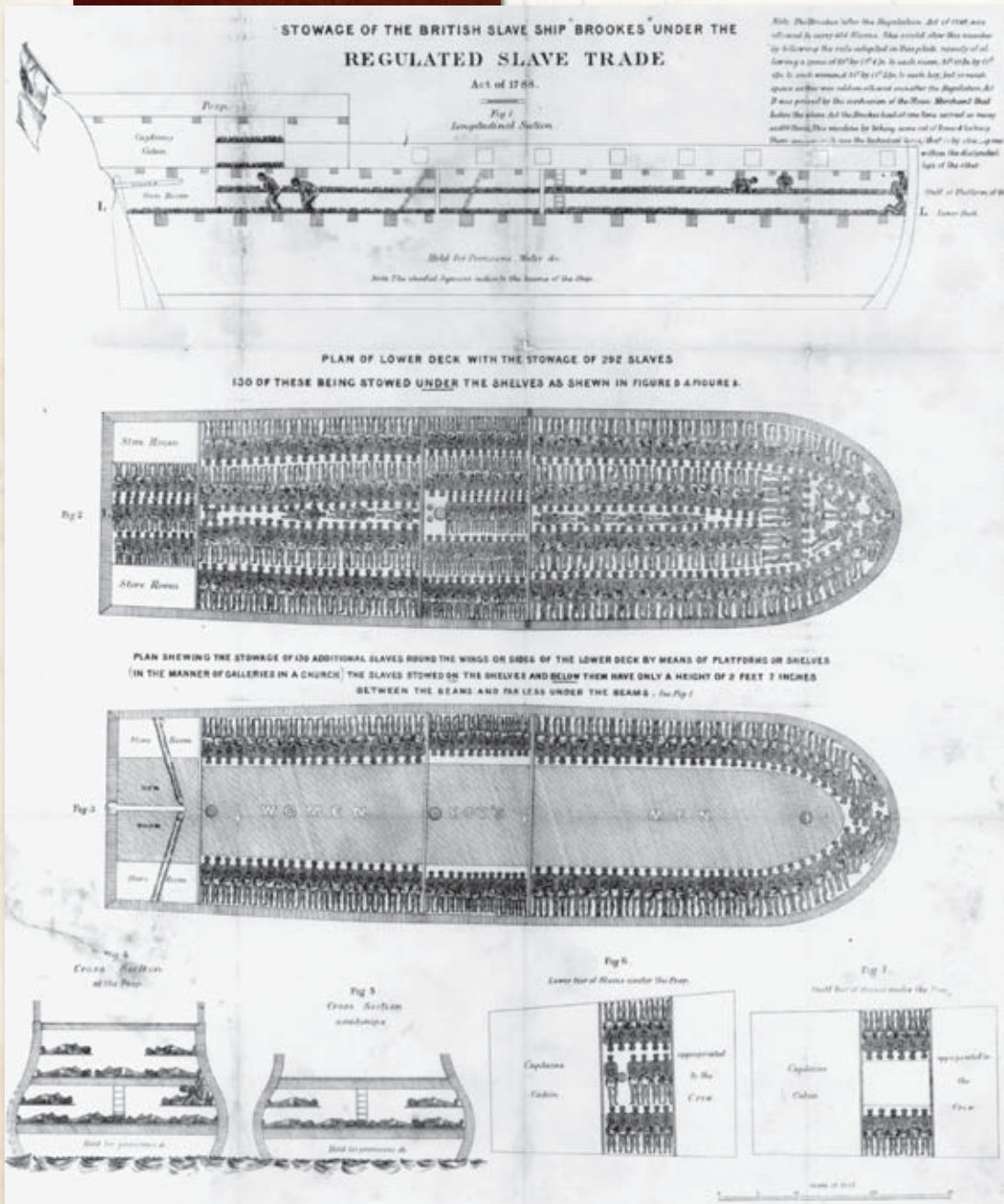
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAËLLE JEAN SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean became Canada's first Black governor general in 2005.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 In your opinion, what were the most important developments in the movement toward equal rights?
- 2 What does it mean for Canada to be a multicultural country?
- 3 Many important events and persons are not shown here. Choose one and provide an argument for its inclusion.

JOURNEY: The STORY of AMINATA DIALLO



*"Africa is my homeland.
But I have weathered
enough migrations for
five lifetimes."*

- AMINATA DIALLO

A MINATA'S EXPERIENCE, like that of many African-Canadians, is defined by her migration—to America, Canada, Africa, and finally England. Uprooted by the **triangular slave trade** which brought captives from Africa to Europe, the Caribbean and North America, Aminata became part of the African **Diaspora**.

This passage describes the beginning of Aminata's first ocean-crossing as a captive bound for slavery in America.

"I dreaded the big boat up ahead, growing larger with each oar stroke. In size, it dwarfed a twelve-man canoe, and it stank worse than the pen they had put us in on the island. The boat terrified me, but I was even more afraid of sinking deep into the salty water, with no possibility for my spirit to return to my ancestors... I clenched my teeth and looked out over the water at all my people tied in canoes and being pushed, prodded and pulled up a long plank rising along the great wall of the ship. I turned back to see my homeland. There were mountains in the distance. One of them rose like an enormous lion. But all its power was trapped on the land. It could do nothing for any of us out on the water."

TRIANGULAR SLAVE TRADE

or the transatlantic slave trade brought more than 12 million slaves, crops and goods between Africa, the Caribbean, North America and Europe from the late 16th to early 19th centuries. For more information on the slave trade, including maps, visit the enslavement page at blackhistorycanada.ca

DIASPORA

A community of people living outside of their ancestral homeland.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ① In what ways is the lion mentioned by Aminata a metaphor for the experience of Africans like her?
- ② What different forms of human servitude were African captives subjected to?
- ③ Examine the above engraving of the interior of a slave ship from 1788. Conduct some research about these conditions. What were the conditions like aboard slave-trading ships?
- ④ How important do you think the experience of slavery is to the Black community in Canada today?
- ⑤ Visit the Statistics Canada website (statcan.gc.ca) about the contemporary African immigrant population in Canada. What conclusions can you draw from the data? Does anything surprise you about this data?

SLAVERY *and* HUMAN RIGHTS

"That, I decided, was what it meant to be a slave: your past didn't matter; in the present you were invisible and you had no claim on the future."

- AMINATA DIALLO

ENSLAVED AFRICANS EXISTED IN CANADA SINCE AT LEAST 1628. By 1759, when New France fell to the British, there were more than 3,000 slaves in Canada. In 1807, the slave trade was banned by the British. By 1834, slavery itself was abolished in Canada and the rest of the British Empire. On the famous **Underground Railroad**, Canada accepted escaped American slaves between 1815-1860, bringing some 30,000 refugees into this country. Yet even after abolition, Blacks in Canada faced considerable challenges because of racism and prejudice.

DISCUSSION & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ① Why do you think the existence of slavery in Canada is overshadowed by the existence of slavery in the United States?
- ② Investigate conditions in Nova Scotia as well as the exodus of Black Loyalists who returned to Africa (Sierra Leone) in 1792. What was the experience of Black Canadians after slavery was abolished?
- ③ The story of the Underground Railroad is one of the best known in Canadian history. Why do you think it is so well known? To view a Heritage Minute on the Underground Railroad, visit blackhistorycanada.ca
- ④ Conduct some research about Hollywood films based on slavery. How accurate are they? Should they be part of a history curriculum? Films you might research are *Gone With the Wind* (1939), *Roots* (1977), *Glory* (1989), *Amistad* (1997) and *Beloved* (1998). Begin your research here: digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/slaveryfilm.cfm
- ⑤ Choose from one of the following people and organizations instrumental in the abolitionist cause in Canada. What was their contribution to the movement? Why was it significant?

Harriet Tubman
William King
Mary Ann Shadd

George Brown
Anti-Slavery Society of Canada
Underground Railroad

A good website to begin is found at: collectionscanada.gc.ca/anti-slavery

- ⑥ In 1948, the United Nations passed the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. The document includes the following rights:

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

How close is the world to upholding these articles? In what ways is the spirit of these articles both maintained and ignored in our world today? Provide examples.

- ⑦ Does modern-day slavery exist? Explain.



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

A secret network of routes, safe houses and persons that aided in the escape of African-American slaves into Canada during the 19th century.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A declaration adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, expressing an unprecedented global standard for basic human rights. The Declaration was influenced by the events of the Second World War.

Joseph James Mitchell	Annapolis Royal	Gilbert	16	ditto			
		Thomas Peltier	115	Ordinary fellow			Black Pioneer
		Murphy Hunt	30	ditto			ditto
		Good Menck	35	ditto			ditto
		Schuy	18	ditto	last		Capt. Anger St. Donat
		John Peltier	20	ditto	Menck		Black Pioneer
		Clary	19	Schuy Child			ditto
		John	1 1/2	Infant			"
		John Satter	25	Stout fellow			Black Pioneer
		Nancy Ankins	19	Schuy Menck			ditto
		Lucy	25	Stout Menck			Capt. St. Donat
		Abraham	2	Infant			ditto
		Dudley Stewart	119	Ordinary Menck			Black Pioneer



BLACK LOYALISTS

THE TREATY OF PARIS (1783)

PASSAGE *to* CANADA

Letter to Sam Ragg, Charleston	date	in	1778	date
Letter to William Campbell, Wilmington, North	date	in	1778	date
Letter to Stephen Daniel	date	in	1777	date
Letter to John Kendal, Eastern Shore, Virginia	date	in	1780	date
Letter to Henry Sumner, Cape Fear, North Carolina	date	in	1779	4. 15. 6.
Letter to M. Delancey, Ash Grove, South	date	in		
Letter to	date	in		
Man within the Lines				
Testimony, Slave to M ^r Salt, Philadelphia	date	in	1779	4. 15. 6.
Letter to Benjamin Mable, Charleston, South Carolina	date	in	1780	
Ordered to be free by M ^r Mather, Magistrate of Phila				
Man within the Lines				
Testimony, Slave to Alexander Stewart, M ^r Mather in in New York	date	in	1776	4. 15. 6.

EVALUATING SOURCES: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the importance of primary sources to the study of history? What makes them particularly valuable in the study of the experiences of slaves?
- What may be missing from the primary accounts?
- Conduct research based on one or two primary sources available at blackhistorycanada.ca and present what you have learned to the class.
- In the above excerpt from the "Book of Negroes," several names including that of abolitionist Thomas Peters are recorded. Choose one of the names listed. Based on the information provided, write the first page of this individual's memoir.
- Does an author have an obligation to be truthful to the facts when he or she writes a historical novel?
- Does it matter that there are imagined scenes in this or other books of historical fiction? When does accuracy matter?
- Is a historical novel of value to history students? Explain.



Government House [Halifax] from the S.W., 1819, by John Elliott Woolford.

PASSAGES TO CANADA: MODERN STORIES OF MIGRATION

- Choose two or three testimonials from the Passages to Canada Digital Archive (passagestocanada.com) and compare the experiences of immigration. How were they similar and how were they different?
- For any immigrant to Canada there are push and pull factors. Push factors drive the migrant away from his or her home country. Pull factors attract the person to Canada. Search through the Passages to Canada Digital Archive and find two examples of both push and pull factors.
- In what ways have immigrants added to Canada's diversity? How does this benefit Canada?
- Imagine you are to welcome a new Canadian to your community. Write a 250-word letter in which you give the prospective Canadian some advice about adapting to Canada. Also, ask the new arrival two questions you would like to learn about his or her homeland.
- Conduct some research to discover what countries most of Canada's immigrants come from today. Examine how this has changed as compared to 30 years ago (or across a period of time). Suggest reasons for the change.
- Many who live in Canada come from other countries. Do some research to determine what the push and pull factors were for your family. For a genealogical activity on ancestry.ca including free access for your school, visit blackhistorycanada.ca.

PASSAGES TO CANADA

is a national speakers bureau created by The Historica-Dominion Institute to bring the experience of immigration into classrooms across Canada. The Passages to Canada Digital Archive reflects the stories and artefacts of some of its speakers. For information on how to invite a Passages to Canada speaker into your classroom, visit passagestocanada.com.



Oscar Peterson commemorative stamp

PLURALISM

A pluralistic and diverse society is one which fosters the co-existence of a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.



Michael "Pinball" Clemons
Vice-Chair and retired player,
Toronto Argonauts



Afua Cooper
author

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

*"In remembering and reaffirming the historic contribution of the Black Canadian community in the building of Canada and Canadian identity, we affirm and celebrate the building of a **plural** Canadian community and culture, one in which, in the words of Martin Luther King, people will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."*

- THE HONOURABLE IRWIN COTLER, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

CULTURAL TOUCHSTONES

TODAY'S BLACK POPULATION IS MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS FROM A RANGE OF PLACES ACROSS the globe including the United States, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Canada. Black Canadians have played an essential role in nation-building and many have become indelible parts of Canada's modern culture. Celebrated jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, writers Lawrence Hill, Dionne Brand and Austin Clarke, and new Canadians such as Michael "Pinball" Clemons are well known. Others, such as pop musician K'Naan are just starting to make their mark.

Mr. Peterson was celebrated by having a postage stamp issued in his honour in 2005. Which other Black Canadians should be honoured on a postage stamp? Conduct some research on a modern day Black Canadian personality and make a case for him or her gracing a postage stamp.

Optional: Design the stamp.

For a collection of contributions and profiles of Black Canadians throughout history, visit the contributions and arts & culture pages at blackhistorycanada.ca.

CREATING A CANADIAN HISTORY CARD

Choose one Canadian personality from the Black community and create a "history card" of that person. Each card should contain the following:

- a photograph of the personality (browse pictures at blackhistorycanada.ca)
- a brief description of that person's background and achievements
- a quotation either by the person or about the person
- an interesting piece of information about the person that goes beyond basic information

Your research can be presented on a 3 by 5 index card. Cards can be traded among classmates and mounted in the classroom.



K'Naan
musician



Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean
former Governor General of Canada



k-os
hip-hop artist



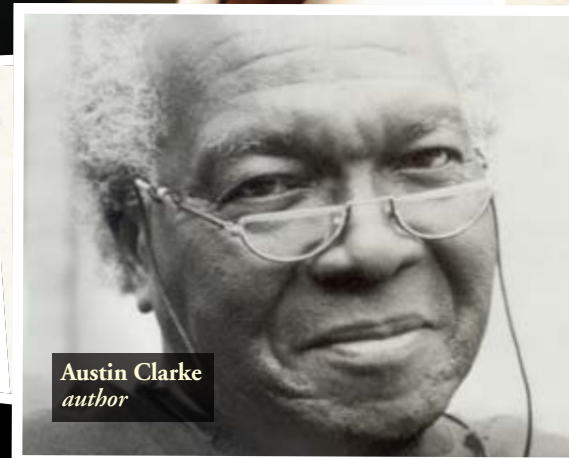
Clement Virgo
filmmaker



Charles Officer
actor/filmmaker



Dany Laferrière
author



Austin Clarke
author



Georges Laraque
retired NHL player



Measha Brueggergosman
soprano

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