

Topic: Land of the Blacks

Issue: Spring 2023

NYS Social Studies Framework:

- 4.5a There were slaves in New York State. People worked to fight against slavery and for change.
- 7.2d Students will examine the changing status and role of African Americans under the Dutch and English colonial systems.

NYS Next Generation ELA Learning Standards:

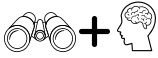
<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-next-generation-ela-standards.pdf>

Link to original article in Archives Magazine: <https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine/magazine-highlights/spring-2023-volume-22-number-4>

Notes about icons:



This icon is paired with observation questions to help student's remember that to observe is to just look at what is in the document.



This icon is paired with inference questions to help students remember that to infer is to use what they observed paired with their own background knowledge to draw a conclusion.



This icon is paired with questions that require thinking about the worldview of those involved. This is to remind students to put on their "Worldview Glasses" and see things from the point of view of the people involved.



This icon is paired with questions that ask students to synthesize information. This is the, "So what?" or "Why is important?" part of the discussion.

Understanding the Online Resources:

- Take a Closer Look & Learning Activity Differentiated - activities that use the same documents as in the print version, but are scaled more to 7th grade.
- Learning Activity Extensions - resources that are directly related to the Learning Activity on page 4 of the magazine.
- Learning Activity Extras - resources that are related to the topic, but can be done separately.
- Document Teaching Resources - resources that are standard and could be used with any any issue.

Big Ideas in this Issue:

Some enslaved Blacks were given "half-freedom" and land to live on by the Dutch West India Company. They built a successful community, despite the less than honorable reason for the WIC granting them the land.

Archives Collection on This Topic:

<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Gallery/280>

Activities in this Issue

Page 3 - “Take a Closer Look”

Students observe historic maps of New Amsterdam, noticing locations of land, Wall Street, etc. They use information from the article and the map to infer why the “Land of the Blacks” was located where it was. We were unable to find a map from the 1660 or 1670s that included the area where the Land of the Blacks was located. We have included two maps so that you can see where New Amsterdam was located, and see the Wall (now Wall Street). From there you can see just how far past the wall the land granted to the “half-free” Blacks was located. They were placed so far out in order to provide a buffer and be the first line of defense should the Munsee attack.

Page 4 - “Learning Activity”

Students will read the Manumission of Manuel de Gerrit & Ten Others, then underline different types of information in various colors. This information can be used for the Manumission of Maneul de Gerrit writing piece in our Learning Activity Extras (see below).

Take a Closer Look Extension - Online

Using the names of those who were granted land in “Land of the Blacks”, a map of Africa and the definition of the word “negro”, students will make inferences about the land owners surnames.

Learning Activity Extras - Online

- Students will use additional sources online to complete a writing piece using the RAFT strategy. More information on RAFT can be found here: <https://www.readwritethink.org/professional-development/strategy-guides/using-raft-writing-strategy>.
- Lined paper for the RAFT activity.
- Manumission of Maneul de Gerrit document analysis activity & synthesis writing piece. Students will use what they learned in the article and in the manumission document to write a synthesis piece about why the term “half-freedom” was used.

High School Lesson: The African American Experience in the Dutch Colonies -

<https://considerthesourcenyc.org/activity/african-american-experience-dutch-colonies>

Additional Information on “Land of the Blacks”

- Merchant House Museum - <https://merchantshouse.org/blog/manuel-plaza/>
- Columbia MAAP - <https://maap.columbia.edu/place/30.html>

Additional Information on New Amsterdam

- New Amsterdam History Center: Mapping Early New York - <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/#14.42/40.71423/-74.0062/-51.3>
- New Amsterdam History Center: 3-D Model - <https://newamsterdamhistorycenter.org/learn-explore/full-3d-model/>