







Take a Closer Look

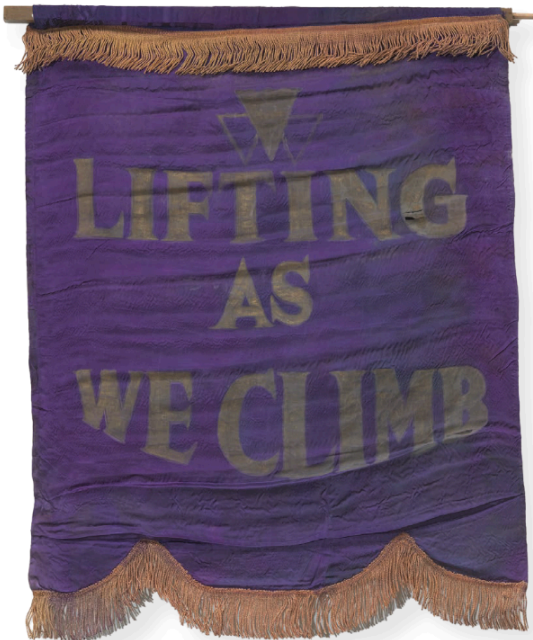
Student Name _____ Possible answers

The Phyllis Wheatley Club of Buffalo

The Phyllis Wheatley Club, Buffalo, NY (Library of Congress) Photo shows, seated (left to right): Mrs. Powell, unknown, Mrs. Saunders, Penolia McAden. Standing (left to right): unknown, Bette S. Anderson, Amelia Grace Anderson, Mary B. Talbert, Frances Nash, unknown, unknown, Theresa G. Anderson, Beatrice Chase, and Mrs. Chase.



|  I Observe: |  +  I Infer: |  I Wonder: |
|---|---|---|
| -a group of women in front of a stair case -this picture is sepia toned (or B&W) The women are wearing skirts, dresses & hats | From the text I know that these women all belong to Phyllis Wheatley club I can infer that this picture might have been taken at one of their meetings. | -What was their meeting about that day? -Where are they? -Do all ladies in this time wear hats? |



At their October 29, 1899 meeting, the women of the Buffalo Phillis Wheatly Club were addressed by the National Association of Colored Women. This banner has their motto, Lifting as We Climb.

Using information from this issue, write about what you think this means.

I think "Lifting as We Climb" means that people help each other. The text in this issue talks about how Black people created churches, clubs and other organizations to help each other and to give themselves places to do things (like play music) that they weren't allowed to do with White people at that time. Lifting as we climb means that as people find success they will help others find success too.

Learning Activity

The text below is from the Colored Musicians Club Constitution:

"[To] foster the principles of unity and cooperation among the colored musicians of Erie County, N.Y.; to develop and promote the civic, social, recreational and physical well-being of its members; to improve and enhance the professional and economic status of its members; to stimulate its members to greater musical expression; to encourage and develop a fuller appreciation of music on the part of its members and the public; and generally to unite its members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding." (McRae)

Directions: Go back to the text and highlight or underline the text:



Having to do with music



Having to do with things other than music

Below is a quote from a famous jazz pianist who was part of the colored Musicians Club



Al Tinny

"There was never a place like the Musician's club when I was in New York. To play and socialize. What you called a jam session was all great players. They came out to cut each other. 'I can do this better than you.' The Club is like a workshop. The more you play with better people, the better you get. I figure one day they'll grow up and become better, and I've seen them in the minor leagues. And one day they'll be in the major leagues. I go as a supporter of this thing, because I'm in it. We're all in it together. There's a nice camaraderie up here." -Al Tinny

The Colored Musicians Club wasn't just a place to play music. From their constitution and from Mr. Tinny's quote, what else was important to them? Write about it below, using evidence from these two texts.

The Colored Musicians Club wasn't just a place to play music. Its constitution has many ideas that aren't about music, like "to develop and promote the civic, social, recreational and physical well-being of its members..." and "... generally unite its members in bonds of friendship...". Mr. Tinny talks about how the musicians in the club would play together, helping each other to improve. In the quote it says, "The more you play with better people, the better you get. I figure one day they'll grow up and become better..." The club wasn't just a place to play music, but a place to make friends and work to be better musicians.