

African Burial Ground

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

African Burial Ground
National Monument
New York, NY 10007



Junior Ranger Worksheet

About the African Burial Ground National Monument:

From the 1690s until the 1790s, both free and enslaved Africans were buried within a 6.6 acre burial ground in Lower Manhattan, outside the boundaries of the settlement of New Amsterdam, later known as New York. Lost to history due to landfill and development, the grounds were rediscovered in 1991 as a consequence of the planned construction of the Ted Weiss Federal Office building, located at 290 Broadway. The remains of 419 free and enslaved African men, women, and children who lived during the 17th and 18th century were excavated from the cemetery. The African Burial Ground was designated a National Monument by Presidential Proclamation on February 27, 2006. A memorial, dedicated in October of 2007, honors the lives, contributions, and memories of the approximately 15,000 Africans buried within the 6.6 acre boundary of the original cemetery.

How to become a Junior Ranger:

- Explore the African Burial Ground Visitor Center and Memorial
- Hear park rangers tell the stories about the African Burial Ground
- Complete at least four (4) activities in the booklet and become a Junior Ranger
- Share your stories with friends and family when you return home

For more information, please contact:
African Burial Ground National Monument
290 Broadway, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-2019
www.nps.gov/afbg

Artifacts

What artifacts do you see were buried with the Africans' bodies? The names of some artifacts found in the burial ground are all mixed up. Unscramble them if you can! The underlined letters spell something out

uffc kiln = _____

daeb = _____

tutbon = _____

rhuods npi = _____

nrig = _____

ptneadn = _____

_____ = Learn from the Past

Freedom

What does freedom mean to you?



Language

Africans spoke many different languages. One of the languages spoken in Senegal is Wolof.

I come from = Mangi deka fi

Hello = Diama ngma

Thank you = Dieuredieuf

My name is = la tudah

Write the following sentence in Wolof. Hello. My name is write your name here. I come from write where you are from here.

Fill in the Blank

A _____ is poured to honor the ancestors-those who have passed on to the afterlife.

The _____ was land granted to Africans in the 1600's. It extended from Canal Street all the way up to 34th Street.

About 40% of those buried in the burial ground were _____.

Burial # _____ was a child 6-11 years old (*Hint when looking at the images of the excavated remains look in the 7th row from the bottom)

Around the year _____ the first 11 Africans were taken and brought to New Amsterdam later called New York.

The _____ Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

Symbols

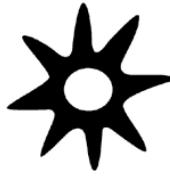
Many cultures use symbols like the Akan symbols you see here. Draw your own symbol. What does it mean?



Adaptability



Hope



Guardianship



Patience and tolerance



What is the same and what is different

Draw what you think a cemetery looks like. Draw what the African Burial Ground looks like.

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Who am I?

In the 17th and 18th century, African men, women, and children lived harsh lives, but that didn't stop them and their determination to become free. Walk around the visitor center to learn more about some of the people who lived during this time period.

- a.) I lived and worked on a farm in Brooklyn, NY. When the slave holder died he said that my husband and I were not to be sold and that we could have off every Saturday afternoon to work for ourselves. Who am I? _____
- b.) I was one of the first captive Africans brought to New Amsterdam. After years of being enslaved, I was granted land through my appeal for freedom in 1644. Who am I? _____
- c.) Women in the household became alarmed of me when I started to "trifle about charms." That's when I was put up for sale. In John Watt's letter he described me as "a very good cook" and "a most necessary servant." Who am I?

- d.) I was identified as jumping out of a window and over fences during a series of fires in New York. I eventually was caught and found guilty of conspiring with others to kill people in the city. Who am I? _____
- e.) In 1733 I ran away from the slave holder Jacobus Van Cortlandt. A runaway ad was soon published describing me as a tall and lusty fellow who spoke very good English. Who am I? _____
- f.) I was bought by the John Street Methodist Church where I eventually worked off my purchase price as a grave digger and caretaker for the church. I founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1796. Who am I? _____

Be a Reporter

Pretend you are a reporter who must get information for a newspaper article. Use the exhibit to fill in timeline dates to fill in the blanks for your story.

African Burial Ground is rediscovered	_____
419 remains are transferred to Howard University	_____
Researchers at Howard University finish recording and measuring remains	_____
GSA announces the selection of 5 finalists for the African Burial Ground memorial	_____
All 419 remains return to the burial ground during the Rites of Ancestral Return	_____
The winning design for the African Burial Ground memorial is architect Rodney Leon	_____
President George W. Bush designates the African Burial Ground as a National Monument	_____
The African Burial Ground memorial opens to the public	_____
The African Burial Ground visitor center opens to the public	_____

Africa

Did you know Africa is the second largest Continent on planet Earth?
Color Africa your favorite color.



Memorial

Answer the following questions about the African Burial Ground memorial

- 1.) Do you see any patterns or shapes being repeated at the memorial? (For example: spirals, circles, straight lines)

- 2.) What adjectives would you use to describe the memorial? (big, serious, etc)

- 3.) What makes this memorial different from or similar to other memorials you may have seen?

- 4.) Look at the area around the memorial and answer the following:
 - a. What man-made objects do you see? Look for things such as buildings, roads, etc.

 - b. What naturally occurring features do you see? Look for things such as trees, water, etc.

- 5.) Do your observations from question #4 give you any clues as to what this area was like in the past?

- 6.) What do you think the future holds for this memorial?

- 7.) How would the loss of this memorial affect the neighborhood and community?