African-American Lives 2: “We Come From People”



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Video: This episode reveals stories of participant’s ancestors during the early years of the United States.

Instructions: Watch the video, then respond to the questions and be prepared to share and discuss your answers.

1. Based on the video, what kind of hardships did African-Americans, both free and slave, face during the early years of United States history?
2. What example did they discuss of whites helping blacks during the early 1800s? How does this help us better understand African-American history?
3. Why is it so difficult to trace African-American ancestry before the Civil War (1865)?
4. How could the death of a slave owner possibly be a troubled time for his/her slaves?
5. How would you describe the reaction that the participants had when they viewed a picture of the person who owned their ancestors? How do you think you would react?
6. Abraham Van Meter was a unique type of slave owner. What does his story teach us about African-American History and the institution of slavery?
7. Why do you think some slave owners wrote in their wills that they wanted their slaves to be emancipated when either they (the slave owner) or their wife died?
8. How can examining the hardships that African-Americans, both slave and free, endured during the early stages of the United States be beneficial for us now?
9. What did you learn from this video that surprised you? (Maybe you learned something that you weren’t expecting to learn?)
10. How has watching this video given you a better understanding of African-American Studies?