

The HistoryMakers: The Nation's Largest African American Video Oral History Collection

Background: Since 1999, The HistoryMakers has been preserving and sharing the life stories of thousands of African Americans, from President Barack Obama to the oldest living black cowboy, The HistoryMakers is a leader in helping to educate and enlighten millions worldwide through refashioning a more inclusive record of American history.

Lesson Objective: Discover the uses of the HistoryMakers archive, analyze two oral histories from the World War II Era, and learn about the skill of interviewing.

Agenda January 20th, 2017

1. Website & Login:

- a. Website: <https://www.thehistorymakers.com/user>
- b. Credentials:
 - i. Username:
 - ii. Password:

Note: Click on the Archive before you start watching videos. The website is a little slow to start, give it time.

2. Google Form -- KWL Chart Part 1:

- a. Complete the following [KWL Chart](#)

3. Analyzing Oral Histories:

- a. **Oral History Excerpts:** Select 2 (or more) Oral Histories from this [list](#). Feel free to listen to more than just the two you answer questions about. Experiment with the website and discover a few oral histories on your own.
- b. **Primary Source Analysis Worksheet:** Make sure to answer the questions as you analyze the above excerpts (individual Google Doc located in the Google Classroom stream).

4. Google Form -- KWL Chart Part 2:

- a. Complete the following [KWL Chart](#)

5. HistoryMakers Survey: Complete the following [survey](#) about your experience using the HistoryMakers oral history archive

Directions: Select 2 of the oral histories from the links gathered and listen to the stories that are told by the people interviewed. Feel free to click on other links or stories connected to the person you were sent to originally. Exploration is encouraged. While you are listening to the oral histories, answer the questions below.

Oral History 1:

1. Who was interviewed in the first oral history that you listened to? What kind of information could gather about the person's biography?

2. What connection or involvement did this person have to World War II? Explain.

3. If you were interviewing this person, are there any questions you would want to ask? Did this interviewer miss an opportunity to gather any important information? Explain.

Oral History 2:

4. Who was interviewed in the second oral history that you listened to? What kind of information could gather about the person's biography?

5. What connection or involvement did this person have to World War II? Explain.

6. If you were interviewing this person, are there any questions you would want to ask? Did this interviewer miss an opportunity to gather any important information? Explain.

Drawing Conclusions:

7. What are some of the common themes or ideas that were expressed in the oral histories that you listened to? Explain.

8. After listening to these oral histories, are there any lessons to be learned about the interviewing people for oral histories? Are there any techniques or skills you saw modeled in this project that could help you on in your future oral history assignments?

9. What can we learn from oral histories? Why are they an important part of studying history?