Debating Monuments & Unpacking Cultural Diplomacy

Thanks for joining us! We will begin at the top of the hour.
Housekeeping

- Q&A Box

- Live Captioning

- Survey at the end if you want proof of attendance

- We will email a link to the video and materials tomorrow.
Debating Monuments & Unpacking Cultural Diplomacy

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The NEH and NHD: Partners for History Education
Session Overview

I. The NEH and NHD
II. Commemorating People, Events, and Places
III. Debating Monuments, Markers, and Memorials
IV. Tech and Analyzing Monuments
V. Place-based Teaching & Research

VI. Defining Cultural Democracy
VII. Jazz Ambassadors: Motivations, Reactions, Impact
VIII. Resources on EDSITEment
IX. Q&A
"Pulling Down the Statue of George III" (1859)  
(Bowling Green Park, New York City)

General James Ewell Brown “JEB” Stuart (Richmond, Virginia)
Poll Question #1

Why do we build monuments to honor people, events, and places?
"Pulling Down the Statue of George III" (1859) (Bowling Green Park, New York City)

General James Ewell Brown “JEB” Stuart (Richmond, Virginia)
“Rumors of War”
Kahinde Wiley
(Times Square, New York City)
Monument Avenue (Richmond, VA)

A divided history in Richmond

In Richmond, Confederate leaders are among those honored with statues on Monument Avenue. A few miles away, the Shockoe Bottom area is filled with historic sites where the slave trade flourished until the end of the Civil War.

SOURCE: Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project
What do debates about monuments, markers, and memorials entail?

Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Sojourner Truth in Central Park, NYC.

Philadelphia Chinatown Race Street, Philadelphia, PA

The Empty Chair, Capital School Park, Juneau, AK.
Poll Question #2

What questions can be investigated when researching the intersection of time and place?
Debating Monuments, Memorials, and Markers

• To what extent do we need monuments and memorials to remember events and people?
• How should we commemorate ________________?
• What histories in your community have yet to be memorialized?
• How does commemoration in one time and place compare to commemoration in another?
• What do historically significant sites reveal about our relationship with the past?
• What criteria should be used and how should decisions be made when erecting a monument?
• To what extent is a place connected to a larger national historical or cultural development?
Analyzing and Debating Monuments
Guiding Questions

Why and how do we study the intersection of time and place?

How do you engage with historic and cultural sites in your state or territory?

How can historic and cultural sites be included in teaching and learning across the humanities?

To what extent do we need monuments and memorials to commemorate events and people?

Teacher's Guide: Investigating Local History

State and Territory Encyclopedias & Resources

Teaching and Learning Local History

Mapping Local History

NEH in Your State and Territory
Hispanic and Latino Heritage and History in the United States

How is Latino history woven into the fabric of U.S. history?

What are some historical and cultural connections between Latin America and the United States?

Latin American and Latino History

Landmarks of Movement and Migration

Borderlands

Challenging ideas of fixed boundaries of nations and empires, the term “borderlands” conceptualizes the crossroads where cultures meet in the movement of people, ideas, and goods. In the context of United States history, borderlands can describe the changing relationships of the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S.-Canada border, and Indigenous-U.S. borders. These contact zones help us understand place as a tool for identity creation and citizenship.

Throughout the colonial era, borders changed over time in the Americas. Spanish colonization further impacted trade, language, and culture—often at the expense of Indigenous people. As people claimed land for...
Duke, D.C., & Diplomacy
Jazz Ambassador Duke Ellington

What is cultural diplomacy?

**Culture:**
customs, arts, institutions that represent a sense of shared identity

**Diplomacy:**
negotiating, compromising, and communicating with people or nations to find a nonviolent solution to a perceived problem
Public Law 860*

*International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act of 1956
Public Law 860*

Sec. 2. The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States, and the contributions being made by the United States economic and social system toward a peaceful and more fruitful life for its own people and other people throughout the world; and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.

Sec. 3. The President is authorized to provide for—

1. tours in countries abroad by creative and performing artists and athletes from the United States, individually and in groups, representing any field of the arts, sports, or any other form of cultural attainment;

2. United States representation in artistic, dramatic, musical, sports, and other cultural festivals, competitions, and like exhibitions abroad;

*International Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act of 1956
Poll Question #3

How would you define cultural diplomacy?

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Sec. 3. The President is authorized to provide for—

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(2) United States representation in artistic, dramatic, musical, sports, and other cultural festivals, competitions, and like exhibitions abroad;
What is cultural diplomacy?

**Constructed definition**

*cultural diplomacy*: when one country uses creative and performing artists and athletes to develop friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations with other countries of the world

**ICD definition**

*cultural diplomacy*: the means through which countries promote their cultural and political values to the rest of the world... [to] foster mutual understanding and dialogue

Cultural Diplomacy Dictionary from the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy
Why Jazz?

Jack Teagarden, Dixie Bailey, Mary Lou Williams, Tadd Dameron, Hank Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, and Milt Orent, ca. 1947, Library of Congress

Dizzy Gillespie, Mary Lou Williams, Tadd Dameron, Hank Jones, Milt Orent, Dixie Bailey, and Jack Teagarden, ca. 1947, Library of Congress
Jazz Fans the World Over Get a Chance To Dig That Cool American Propaganda

By DAVID KONCE

American jazz, with primitive roots deep in African soil, is being re-exported in a highly polished form to the Dark Continent by the Voice of America. Beginning today, the two-hour jazz show of the Voice, America's propaganda radio, will become world-wide as its riffs and hot licks are beamed to Africa, the Near East and the Middle East.

The Touring Jazzmen

The idea seems to be catching on in other quarters. The State Department's International Education and Exchange Service is currently underwriting an Asian-European tour by the 17-piece band of Dizzy Gillespie. Later this year, Louis Armstrong's orchestra will tour Latin America with the help of a grant from the State Department. The Gillespie band, which has played Karachi and Dacca, in Pakistan, will continue on to Beirut, Damascus, Aleppo, Ankara, Istanbul, Belgrade and Athens. Tickets for the Karachi date were sold out in two hours, and the band had to play a second show to a full house.

Of considerable propaganda value is the fact that these bands are "mixed"—that is, composed of both white and Negro musicians. This serves to counteract propaganda that plays on America's race troubles.
“After all, America is my country, too, and I’ve always tried to do anything I could to help it. But do you dig me when I say I still have a right to blow my top over injustice?”
What words or phrases stand out? What questions do they raise?

It was with great pleasure that I received the glowing reports of your recent tour of the Soviet Union. Your informal jam sessions with Soviet musicians must have been especially exciting -- both for you and for them.

Through your outstanding musical tours, you are continuing to win friends for the United States throughout the world. My congratulations once again on a job well done.

With warm personal regards,
Poll Question #4

What words or phrases stand out?
What questions do they raise?

It was with great pleasure that I received the glowing reports of your recent tour of the Soviet Union. Your informal jam sessions with Soviet musicians must have been especially exciting -- both for you and for them.

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With warm personal regards,
What words or phrases stand out? What questions do they raise?

How is he using the word informal? Does he mean that these jam sessions were spontaneous? Why is he so pleased by them?

What exactly does it mean to “win friends?” How does the State Department measure this?

What was the relationship between Nixon and Ellington? Was their relationship typical for presidents and Jazz Ambassadors?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1971

Dear Duke:

It was with great pleasure that I received the glowing reports of your recent tour of the Soviet Union. Your informal jam sessions with Soviet musicians must have been especially exciting — both for you and for them.

Through your outstanding musical tours, you are continuing to win friends for the United States throughout the world. My congratulations once again on a job well done.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Mr. Duke Ellington
333 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10025
Lesson Plan

Jazz Ambassadors: Cultural Diplomacy and the Cold War

The Jazz Ambassadors

The Jazz Ambassadors is a Peabody award winning, NEH-funded film about the role jazz artists played during the Cold War. Encouraged by the U.S. government to counter negative images of racism and anti-Black discrimination in the United States, these artists spoke honestly about the inequalities faced by African Americans in their country.

You can view additional clips from the movie on PBS.

Lesson Plan

Civil Rights and the Cold War

Teacher's Guide

Using Primary Sources in Digital and Live Archives
Summer 2022 NEH Programs

Applications open November 15th to March 1st

Heart Mountain, Wyoming and Japanese Incarceration

The Space Age on the Space Coast

California Dreamin': Migration, Work, and Settlement in the "Other" California

Bloody Sunday, Selma, and the Long Civil Rights Movement
Teacher’s Guide

Preparing for National History Day

Guiding Questions

How has technology transformed how we communicate and what has this meant for history?

Who has broken barriers in history?

What qualifies an event as a turning point in history?

What have debate and diplomacy produced in history?

The NEH and NHD: Partners for History

Chronicling America and National History Day

NHD Advice from NEH Experts

2022: Debates and Diplomacy in History

2021: Communication in History

2020: Breaking Barriers

Twitter: @EDSITEment

EDSITEment was ranked “Best for History” in 2019 by Scholastic Education.
Questions?

To provide feedback and obtain proof of attendance:

https://tinyurl.com/NHDwebinars