

Special Resources:

Although the documents and resources found at this site are specifically linked to one of eight Essential Understandings, other resources will be generally helpful in preparing a unit about African American history. They include:

1. **The Thomas Balch Library**

Since we are able to include only a small portion of the documents and other resources available at the Balch about African American history, we invite you to visit the Balch Library or its website, www.leesburgva.org (key word: Thomas Balch Library).

2. **A Chronology of African American History in Loudoun County**

As you choose from the documents included at this site, you will find it extremely helpful to use a chronology of African American history in Loudoun County by local historian, Eugene Scheel. Mr. Scheel presented the chronology to the Balch Library in 1999. He recently updated and edited it, and has graciously given us permission to make it available to you on line. Any history teacher in Loudoun County who is teaching African American history should visit this chronology. Further, we believe it will provide an important context for using the resources at this site.

3. **The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom: Loudoun Members**

The Balch Library, Oatlands Plantation, and the Loudoun County Courthouse are all members of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a National Park Service organization. To find out why these three sites were designated as members, [click here](#).

4. **African American Communities in Loudoun County**

A project of the Friends of the Balch Black History Committee, this **history** (*Coming soon*) of African American Communities in Loudoun County, written by Deborah Lee, provides a rich resource for teachers. Click here for the accompanying **map**.

5. **Vocabulary**

As your students use the documents at this site, they may find certain vocabulary words and terms unfamiliar. For your convenience, a vocabulary list is included here. Although it is not comprehensive, it will provide a basis for building a more complete bank of words with your students.

The following links will be important to you as you use the documents included at

this site:

6. **Relevant Sections of the U.S. Constitution**

U.S. Constitution: Article I: Section 2

The “Civil War” Amendments

Amendment XIII

(Ratified December 1865)

Amendment XIV

(Ratified July 1868)

Amendment XV

(Ratified February 1870)

Amendment XXIV

(Ratified 1964): No poll tax in federal elections.

7. **Relevant Documents including Presidential Orders, Supreme Court Decisions and Legislation:**

The Compromise of 1850

This legislation tightened the Fugitive Slave Law, making it much more difficult for slaves in the South to escape.

Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862

The Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863

The freeing of slaves in areas still rebelling against the union.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 1954

The landmark case overturning the “separate but equal” language of Plessy v. Ferguson

The Civil Rights Act of 1964

A law desegregating public facilities.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965

Protection of a citizen’s right to vote.

8. **Bibliography** (*Coming soon*)