

In July 2009, as part of the Cleveland Public School's *Teaching American History* grant, teachers visited various sites in the Lowcountry to study the roots of African American culture. Below is a synopsis of the NHEC federal grant.

Teaching American History Grant: History Connections: From the Low Country to the North Coast

This project will fill a unique and specific need in the consortium schools in content, pedagogy, and approach: helping urban middle and high school history teachers and their students understand and relate to traditional American history through studying African American history in Northeastern Ohio as an extension of its roots in the South and as a product of northward migration. Providing intense training for a core of American history teachers from the eighth and tenth grades, the consortium will work with its partners in the three-year period to help 90 teachers increase their content knowledge of traditional American history and pedagogical skills focusing on historical thinking. The project will introduce them to 300 years of African American history through primary sources, artifacts of material culture, oral histories, written documents, and field research. The journey from West Africa to the Carolina low country, then to the southern cotton belt, and finally to Ohio's North Coast provides a historical microcosm of 300 years of African American history in North America. Specific content to be studied within the project's three time periods includes the emergence of a black Gullah culture, the actual blending of several West African ethnic groups with white Anglo-Protestant culture, the retention of West African language, arts, and religion into the 20th Century, and the Great Migration.

Below is the picture of teachers from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District visiting the Lowcountry.



Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Partners

Kenyon College | Research Center for African American History and Culture | the College of Charleston |
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