



The Visionaries Behind the Words: NC Freedom Park’s “Voices of Freedom”

Overview

A key component of North Carolina’s Freedom Park are the [“Voices of Freedom,”](#) quotations from North Carolina visionaries who, against the backdrop of adversity, emerged as leaders and change-makers in North Carolina’s history. Each voice that is represented in the Park has a rich and compelling story regarding their experiences, commitment to freedom and justice, and/or their impact on the past and present of our state. In this activity, students will independently research one of the powerful “Voices of Freedom,” as well as get a visual sense of the geographical diversity represented by these visionaries, by engaging in a Google Earth exploratory activity. (This activity can be completed before or after a visit to the Park, and can also be utilized in classrooms unable to visit the Park.) To deepen the learning, this lesson can be followed with [Primary Source Analyzation at NC Freedom Park.](#)

Duration

30+ minutes (time will vary based on how many sources teachers have students analyze & the depth of conversation around them)

Grades

6th - 12th

Materials

- An internet connected device such as a tablet or laptop
- [North Carolina Freedom Park](#) website
- [North Carolina’s Freedom Park on Google Earth](#)
- Exploring the [“Voices of Freedom”](#) at North Carolina’s Freedom Park, handout attached
 - Teachers can either provide this as a print out, or copy it into an electronic file for students to complete in the preferred platform of your school
- *Additional activities for use before, during and after your visit to NC Freedom Park, as well as lesson plans for teaching about the people, history and themes of NC Freedom Park more in depth in the classroom, are available [here](#). All educational resources are aligned to the NC Standard Course of Study/NC Essential Standards in Social Studies.*

Preparation

Students should have a basic familiarity with North Carolina Freedom Park and should be prepared with expectations for engaging with the themes represented in the Park. See the lesson plan [“An Introduction to North Carolina Freedom Park.”](#)

Procedure

What is a “VISIONARY?” (5 minutes)

1. As a warm-up, write the word VISIONARY on the board and ask students to write down what comes to mind when they consider this word. After 1-2 minutes, ask students to share their thoughts and compile a list up front. (If desired, students can first share in partners or small groups.) Further discuss:
 - What are some of the commonalities we can identify in our list? Are there any outliers?
 - In your opinion, what are the most important characteristics of a visionary?
 - Who specifically comes to mind when you think of a visionary? (Encourage students to consider broad categories - such as governmental leaders, community leaders, school leaders, etc. - as well as specific people holding such roles.)

2. Have students open their electronic devices and visit the [Voices of Freedom page](#) on Freedom Park’s webpage. Give students a few minutes to read the overview of the Voices of Freedom and to also skim the names listed. Ask them if they recognize any of the names and/or know anything about these leaders and allow them to share what they already know. Let them know they will be learning more about the people behind these quotes throughout this activity.

Exploring the “Voices of Freedom” on Google Earth (20+ minutes)

3. Next, tell students to navigate to [North Carolina’s Freedom Park on Google Earth](#). If this is their first exposure to Google Earth, spend a few minutes getting students acquainted with the site and tools (zooming in and out, exploring links, navigating through each place, utilizing Street View, etc.) Also provide students with the attached handout, Exploring the “Voices of Freedom” at North Carolina’s Freedom Park, or create and provide them with a link to complete it electronically.
 4. Assign each student one of the people whose quotes are featured in the Park, and who they will see listed on the Google Earth site. (For classes larger than the number of quotes you choose to assign, the same person/quote can be assigned more than once. If devices are limited, or teachers prefer, this activity can also be completed in partners.)
 - Tell students they will learn about the person behind the quote - who they are; where they are from; challenges they faced; actions they took; the leadership and vision they exhibited; and the difference they made.
 - Students will click on their assigned person and read the quote by and information about their person that is provided.
 - Make sure students notice the location in North Carolina associated with their assigned person, as well as the geographical diversity all of the Voices of Freedom represent. It’s important that students understand that Black visionaries, leaders, activists, etc. hail from all places across the state.
 - Teachers should remind students of rules for internet research/usage. They will leave Google Earth and visit various sites to learn about their assigned visionary, filling out the handout provided.
 5. Give students around 20+ minutes to complete the activity. Tell students that after they complete the activity for their assigned quote/person, they can use any remaining time to explore other leaders featured on the Google Earth site.
 6. When finished, project an image of each visionary and have students assigned to that person share what they learned (who was this person; what were their qualities; examples of their vision and leadership; how their words can inspire others, etc.)
 7. As an [Exit Ticket](#), ask students to reflect and answer: How can the “Voices of Freedom” you have learned about in North Carolina Freedom Park inspire the next generation of our state’s visionaries and leaders?
- To deepen student learning, this lesson can be followed with [Primary Source Analyzation at NC Freedom Park](#).

Curriculum materials for North Carolina Freedom Park were developed with grant support from the Paul Green Foundation. Thank you to educator Cori Greer-Banks for the creation of the Google Earth activity. For questions regarding NC Freedom Park materials, editable formats, or other requests, contact Christie Norris at cnorris@unc.edu.

Name: _____

Exploring Visionaries: NC Freedom Park's "Voices of Freedom" via Google Earth

1. Who is the visionary commemorated in [North Carolina Freedom Park in Google Earth](#) you are exploring:

2. Write their quote that is featured in NC Freedom Park here:

3. Review the Google Earth map of the "Voices of Freedom." In what region of the state is your assigned person attached to? What is the relevance of this location relevant to them? (e.g., is this where they were born, grew up, worked, etc.?)

4. What did this person do? How did they influence and impact the state of North Carolina? What are some examples of their vision in action?

5. What challenges did they face?

6. What message are they conveying in the particular quote assigned to you? How does this quote connect to their work, vision, and leadership in general?

7. Based on what you've learned thus far, how would you describe this person and why?

8. How is this person an example of an influential/effective visionary and leader? Why do you think they were selected for inclusion in Freedom Park?

9. What can we learn from the North Carolina visionaries represented throughout Freedom Park? How can their words and actions inspire us to follow in their footsteps and continue improving North Carolina for everyone?

