COLUMBIA CNMTL
CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA TEACHING AND LEARNING

http://maap.columbia.edu

FEATURED PROJECT : MAPPING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PAST

Mapping the African American Past (MAAP) is a public Web site created to enhance the appreciation and study of significant sites and moments in the history of African Americans in New York from the early 17th-century through the recent past. The Web site is a geographic learning environment, enabling students, teachers, and visitors to browse a multitude of locations in New York and read encyclopedic profiles of historical people and events associated with these locations. The site is further enhanced by selected video clips, digitized photographs, documents, and maps from Columbia University libraries and other archives, and commentary from Columbia faculty and other specialists.

Using New York City maps that date back to 1632, the site allows users to zoom-in on streets and historical sites as they once were, and as they are today. In addition to maps, the site features a library containing portraits of prominent African Americans and photographs of historical landmarks. MAAP also offers a podcast for users to listen to descriptions of all 52 locations as they visit them. For smartphone users, a MAAP portal is available for access to podcast episodes on demand.
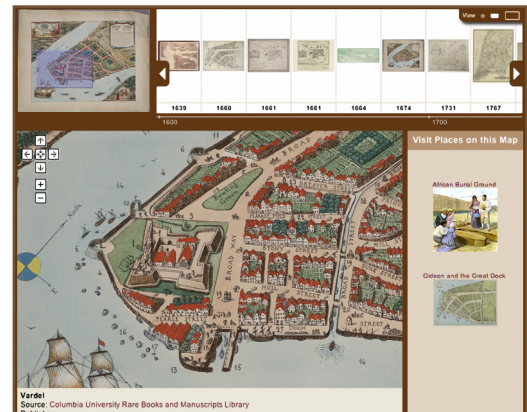
Complementing the site's rich resources, project partners at Columbia University's Teachers College have devised model lessons for the instructors' resource section of the MAAP Web site, offering educators across New York State strategies for incorporating the project's multimedia material into various curricula. Teachers College graduate students are using MAAP to practice effective curriculum-building in a multimedia environment.

"African American history is a required component of the New York State social studies curriculum in 4th, 8th, and 11th grades. As every teacher knows, however, it takes provision of good curriculum materials to make such requirements reality in many classrooms. MAAP answers that need. The MAAP project assists teachers at all levels in introducing this content through stories about building community, resisting slavery, and contributing to New York City's development," said Margaret Crocco, professor of social studies and education and William Gaudelli, associate professor of social studies and education, project partners from Teachers College.

Mapping the African American Past was developed by the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) in partnership with Columbia University's Teachers College and Creative Curriculum Initiatives and funded with generous support of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

MAAP offers students rich information about African American history in New York City.
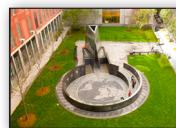

Students discover significant locations by exploring historic maps.

Featured historic site: African Burial Ground

Then: For most of the 1700s, and maybe earlier, Africans and their descendents kept their own burial ground north of the city and its wall.

Now: A current view of the African Burial Ground Memorial located at Duane and Elk Streets.

For more information please visit http://maap.columbia.edu/ or email ccnmtl-maap@columbia.edu