



National Museum of African American History and Culture Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

Early efforts at establishing a museum dedicated to the accomplishments and history of African Americans date back all the way to 1915. African American veterans of the Union Army were dissatisfied by the racial discrimination they still faced and lobbied for the creation of a national memorial or museum. Opened in 2016, the Smithsonian's NMAAHC is the result of decades of organizing to tell the stories of those who suffered under slavery and fought for civil rights and desegregation. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.

Explore the map of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Look through the layout of the different floors. Describe what you will learn about at the different levels.

EXPLORE: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/maps>



Next, explore the collections.

EXPLORE: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection>

There are many different categories in the collection. Pick five and describe some of the items you hope to see.

1. *Answers will vary.* _____

2. *Answers will vary.* _____

3. *Answers will vary.* _____

4. *Answers will vary.* _____

5. *Answers will vary.* _____

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Why do you think it took so long to build the National Museum of African American History and Culture?

Answers will vary.

2. Choose another underrepresented group or culture in our country who you believe should also have a museum in Washington, D.C.
Explain your choice.

Answers will vary.

3. If you could add another exhibit to this museum, what would it be, and why?

Answers will vary.