
Lucasville School: A Small, but Significant Building in Prince William County



Reporting Category: Virginia Studies

Topic: Civil War and Postwar Eras;
Virginia: 1900 to the Present

Primary SOLs: VS.1; VS.8; VS. 9

Related SOLs: VS.7; VS.10

Materials: Interactive Video; Primary Source Document; Comprehension Worksheet; (see attached).

Directions:

- Students will watch and educational video illustrating the following concepts:
 - o A brief history of why Lucasville School is significant to Prince William County and Virginia's history.
 - o Video will tie into the worksheet that students will have to complete as part of their lesson.
- Complete Worksheet

Context:

The Importance of Lucasville School

Lucasville School is a reconstructed one-room schoolhouse that was open from 1885 to 1926 to new generations of African Americans in the years after the Civil War. African Americans emerged from slavery with a strong desire for literacy. Freedmen admired those who had learned to read and write during slavery and viewed literate African Americans as social and moral leaders. Education could help them achieve political and economic independence and determine their own future.

In 1870, Virginia's Legislature established a statewide system of free public schools for all citizens. The Manassas District School Board authorized an elementary school for the Lucasville neighborhood in November 1883. In November 1884, the School Board hired

H.W. Lloyd to build the school, a job Lloyd finished by March 1885. Lucasville School remained in operation for most of those years until it permanently closed in 1926.

Lucasville School's students ranged from grades one through six. Each student's lessons were suited to his or her grade level. Children studied mathematics, geography, penmanship, reading and history. Most children who attended County 'Colored' schools studied Black History in February during Abraham Lincoln's birthday week.

At least seventeen men and women taught at Lucasville School, including Alice and William Taylor who alternately taught at the school from 1906 until the school closed. Some were certified teachers while others were hired on the condition that they complete further training. Some Lucasville School teachers may have trained at Jennie Dean's Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth which opened in 1894.

After the school permanently closed in 1926, the building was sold at auction and moved to a local farm across present day Route 234. There it remained intact until it was dismantled in 2005 and relocated to its current location. By then the structure had greatly deteriorated. However, the reconstructed school contains a few of the original boards. Between December 2005 and February 2008, Lucasville School was dismantled and reconstructed through the efforts of citizens, County officials and Public Homes, Inc and now serves as a museum to remind us of earlier County citizens' efforts to challenge racism and create an effective and lasting public education system.

Exercise: (See attached)

Name: _____



Observation & Interpretation: Take a Tour of Lucasville School!

Watch the following video telling the story of Lucasville School and why it is important to Virginia and Prince William County History. Answer the following questions on the worksheet.

1. What year did Lucasville School Open? _____

When did it close? _____

2. Who learned at Lucasville? _____

Why is this important? _____

3. What were some of the subjects students learned? _____

4. What are some of the differences you see at Lucasville School compared to your school? _____

5. Why do you think there are differences? _____

6. What caused Lucasville School to open and what were the effects? _____

Name: _____



Enrichment Activity

The Emancipation Proclamation

Read a brief overview of the history of the Emancipation Proclamation, then review what you've learned with the exercises that follow.



The Emancipation Proclamation was an order issued by President Abraham Lincoln which began the process of freeing all the slaves in the United States.

Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation after the battle at Antietam on September 22, 1862. It declared all slaves free as of January 1, 1863, when the proclamation was signed.

The order stated that if the rebels did not end the fighting and rejoin the Union, all slaves in the rebellious states would be free. The Emancipation Proclamation, followed by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, would eventually free four million enslaved Americans.

The order also allowed freed slaves to join the U.S. military. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, 200,000 African American troops, most of whom were former slaves, served in the Union armed forces. These added troops, as well as the political effect of the Emancipation Proclamation, helped the Union win the Civil War.

"All persons held as slaves within any States, or designated part of the State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

— The Emancipation Proclamation

Exercises

Fill in the Blank

President _____ signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was issued in _____. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in _____. The Proclamation started the process for _____ million slaves to be freed. The order allowed freed slaves to join the _____.

Word Scramble

The letters are scrambled in the following words. Put the letters in the correct order, then use them to make a sentence about the Emancipation Proclamation.

CNLOINL: _____

ETH: _____

DMFEREO: _____

ROERD: _____

DEGNIS: _____

Sentence: _____

