



Name: _____

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**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

THE JANIRVE FOUNDATION



ASHVILLE
CITIZEN-TIMES



1850-1900



Read the opening panel of the exhibit and answer the following questions.

1. Who conducted the research for “An Unmarked Trail?”
2. Where did the researchers find the information used in this project?
3. Do you have access to these types of records?
4. The second paragraph on this page states, “Most often history textbooks examine time and events based on the majority community in places outside the local sphere.” What does that mean?
5. Describe two ways this exhibit is different from a textbook.

First African American Population of North Carolina

From Goals 3, 3.04

1. What was the name of the Spanish explorer who traveled with his army through the Western North Carolina mountains in 1540?
 2. How many years ago did this event occur?
 3. What was the name of the first documented person of African heritage to settle in WNC?
 4. How did he get here?
 5. *MATH CHALLENGE:* In 1800, slave inhabitants made up *what* percent of the total population of the village that is now Pack Square?
 6. How many “free people of color” were listed in WNC census data as of 1860?
 7. How many total “slave inhabitants” were listed?
 8. Who was the largest slave owner of that time?
 9. Have you heard or seen this name anywhere near your community?
 8. *REFLECTION:* Read the letter to the editor excerpt from an 1894 *Asheville Daily Citizen* newspaper. Stop and reflect about these questions: How far have we come as a society from the attitude reflected in the passage? Have we come far enough?
 9. Read the examples of Jim Crow laws passed in North Carolina in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Try to name at least one more of these laws that is not listed here.
 10. What was the Emma Community in West Asheville originally?
 11. *OUT ON THE TOWN:* Eagle Street, the location of the historic YMI, has been a hub of African American businesses for well over 100 years. The next time you’re in downtown Asheville, go to Eagle Street and Market Street for some shopping, site seeing, or eating.
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NC Politics, Economics, Education, and Religion in the Late 1800s

From Goals 5, 5.02, and 5.5

1. Name two modern conveniences that emerged in Buncombe County from 1880-1890.
 2. Which individual was a major employer for many African Americans in Buncombe County in the 1880s and 1890s?
 3. Why was the YMI (Young Men's Institute) in Asheville constructed?
 4. What threat did Edward Stephens, principal of the Mountain Street School in Asheville, discuss in his concerned letter to Mr. McNamee?
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5. *DISCUSSION:* Study the photograph of the Allen Home School and discuss your observations with a partner or as a class.
 6. What institution became the primary socializing organization for the Black community of Buncombe County in the late 1800s?
 7. Name 3 of the first established African American churches in Buncombe County.

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10. *DISCUSSION:* Read the Bill of Sale documents for a Buncombe County slave. Discuss your reaction to this text with a partner or with the class.
 11. List 4 industries that relied on slave labor in Western North Carolina.
 12. Which Ghanaian instrument came to WNC through the travels of African slaves?
 13. *WRITING:* The portion of an interview with 121 Sarah Gudger is written in the vernacular, or the everyday language spoken by people in a particular place and in a particular time period. On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite this emotional story in your own current vernacular.
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14. Where were John Baxter's grandparents enslaved?
 15. How did they help other slaves who were trying to escape?
 16. Read captured Union Soldier, Alonzo Cooper's, account of his jail time in Asheville's first courthouse (now Pack Square). Are there any monuments in Pack Square to remember such treatment of slaves on the site?

The Civil War and Reconstruction in North Carolina

From Goals 4.03, 4.05

1. What was the most commonly shared condition among all people in Western North Carolina during the Civil War years?
 2. After reading quotes from John Inscoe, Katherine Polk Gale, and Mary Taylor Brown describe how “Stoneman’s Raid” in 1865 aided slaves in Buncombe County.
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3. Summarize the role of the “Freedom Bureau” in Asheville.
 4. How many citizens of North Carolina are documented to have signed up for the Union Army rather than the Confederacy?
 5. After the Civil War, under what conditions could a Black person have the right to vote?
 6. Was the act of registering to vote an easy and safe task?

Change in North Carolina

From Goal 5.02 and Goal 5

1. Who were Isaac Dickson’s mother and father?
 2. From whom did Mr. Dickson purchase former slave quarters that became known as “Dickson town?”
 3. Describe how the vote for public schools in Buncombe County finally passed in 1886.
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4. What major event connected Western North Carolina for the first time with the rest of the state and the nation?
 5. Describe one way that racial and religious discrimination in WNC exist even after a person’s death.
 6. *DISCUSSION:* Study the three postcards manufactured in Asheville that were meant to be humorous. Discuss with a partner or as a class how each could be dehumanizing or could perpetuate oppression. Do we still use humor of this sort?