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Teaching with Historic Places: Lesson Plan on New Philadelphia, Illinois



The National Park Service's program in *Teaching with Historic Places* recently added its tenth lesson plan focusing on archaeology. In *New Philadelphia: A Multiracial Town on the Illinois Frontier*, students meet "Free Frank" McWorter, a formerly enslaved man who founded the town, sold lots, and farmed to earn money to buy his family out of slavery. Students also learn how archeological investigations uncover clues about the development, life, and eventual decline of the town. This program has performed an outstanding job of creating teaching resources which focus on communities long neglected in our history books. This particular lesson plan is of the highest quality, drawing on multiple lines of evidence -- archaeological, oral histories, and primary documents -- and presenting diverse perspectives for students to consider and debate. Ms. Charlotte King, an intern with the NPS Archeology Program, wrote the lesson with the assistance of archaeologists and historians at the University of Maryland, University of Illinois, Illinois State Museum, and Illinois State Archives; members of the New Philadelphia Association; descendants of "Free Frank" McWorter; and others. The NPS featured this lesson plan in celebration of African-American History Month, and you can access it online at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/130newphila/>.