

Long Time Coming: Creating a Monument to Abijah Prince
African Americans in the Making of Early New England, an NEH Landmarks Workshop
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Lesson Overview: Students will analyze a monument to enslaved people in Barrington, Rhode Island, and use primary and secondary sources to design a monument to Abijah Prince.

Resources on slavery in Barrington, Rhode Island

[Slavery in Barrington](#)

[A History of Barrington, Rhode Island](#)

[Barrington Town Records](#)

Activities

Background Information

- Provide students with background information regarding slavery, particularly in the North/New England. This may be done with direct lecture and close reading or jigsawing of documents.
- If slavery in the south has already been covered, be sure to point out similarities and differences.

Barrington Monument Analysis

- Give background into the monument: who/where/when
 - Discussion questions for small groups. Make sure each group has handouts of the monument, “slave memorial at Princes Hill Burial Ground Barrington Rhode Island” https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Slave_memorial_at_Princes_Hill_Burial_Ground_Barrington,_Rhode_Island.jpg. Put discussion questions on the board (or give a copy to each group). Have students record answers on their desktops with dry erase markers or have groups record information on poster-size Post It notes. After the discussion, have the class walk around the room to see how other groups reacted.
 - First reactions?
 - What do you like/dislike about the monument?
 - What would you add/change to the monument?
- Class discussion: what answers were similar/different?
- Exit slip with the student’s personal feelings on the monument. [Click here for the activities.](#)

Abijah Prince Biography Information

[Video lecture by Dr. Gerzina. Might be a small clip to show](#)

[USA Today article about the writing of the book and Gerzina’s family connections](#)

[Biography.com on Lucy Terry Prince](#)

[Blog post summary of the book](#)

“Negro Slavery in Old Deerfield”,

<http://www.americancenturies.mass.edu/collection/itempage.jsp?itemid=5722&img=7&level=advanced&transcription=1>, read up to the poem on pg. 56 and the first paragraph after it, and paragraph 3 on pg. 57

Group Project: Creating a Monument to Abijah Prince

Provide students with an opportunity to analyze the biographical information on Abijah Prince. Working individually or in small groups, students will design a monument for him and create a brief video presentation that includes: the purpose for the monument, its proposed location, an image of it, and the monument text.

- Driving Questions
 - What does it look like? Include dimensions. (Math connection)
 - Possibility for STEM/STEAM component: students could create a 3D model of their monument.
 - From what material is it made? (Science connection)
 - Where will it be? Proposal should include location of memorial including the state and town/city/village.
 - What text will be on it? (ELA connection)

- Culmination
 - Create an under 2-minute video pitching the monument idea to city planners and/or Dr. Gerzina
 - Option: Students may use [History Pin](#) to create an online interactive presentation. History Pin allows students to pin images and information on a Google Map. Students may elect to create a History Pin that pins an image of their proposed monument and text to a Google Map showing the location they chose for their monument to Abijah Prince.