Sunken Slave Ship

Duration: Two weeks (eight instructional hours)

Driving question: How do artifacts and their preservation impact communities?

Lesson 1: Uncovering the Past

How are artifacts and stories of past lives uncovered?

Activity 1: Meet Cudjo Lewis (100 mins)

Activity 2: Find the Clotilda (100 mins)

Lesson 2: Connecting with the Community

Why do artifacts of the past matter to people in the present?

Activity 1: From Benin to Mobile (60 mins)

Activity 2: Ethnography of Africatown (50 mins)

Activity 3: The Importance of Preserving the Past (50 mins)

Lesson 3: Preserving the Past

What should happen to archaeological finds?

Activity 1: Traveling Versus Permanent Exhibits (50 mins)

Activity 2: Preserving the Clotilda (100 mins)

Project-Base Learning Unit Product

Students take on the role of museum curators as they prepare to pitch a museum exhibit proposal to the Alabama Historical Commission. The proposal includes a sketch of the exhibit and a brochure meant to entice visitors to discover the story of Africans who were captured and transported to the United States on the Clotilda and who chose to build their own little piece of Africa, a once self-sustaining place called Africatown.