

Culture and Traditions Packet

Grades 4-8



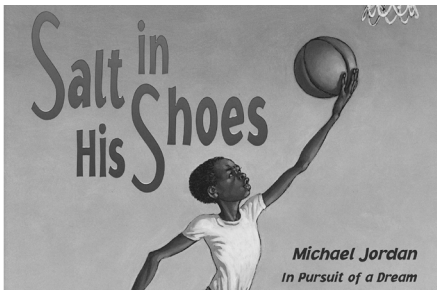
TRUMBULL
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

**Voices Oral
History Project**

Introduction

In this packet students will explore aspects of Culture and Tradition in the African American community. Both in the voices interviews and the overall context of time African Americans have engaged in music and sports. By listening to first hand accounts of experiencing music and dancing and playing sports professionally and in school, this packet will enable students to understand what life was like for African Americans in a different time. A unique blend of African

cultures and traditions combined with enslaved life in the British Colonies created the African American culture we know today. Through traditional oral storytelling Africans continued to keep certain traditions alive while adapting to the new world and new circumstances.



01



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i. **Cover:** Annie Malone **Annie Malone Historical Society; Unsung Sheroes**

01. Salt in His Shoes, **Michael Jordan**
02. 19^o International Jazz Festival of Punta del Este, 1950 **Jimmy Baikovicus; 150111-2052-jikatu**
03. Wynton Marsalis at the Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Center (OSPAC) Seventh Annual Jazz Festival in West Orange, NJ 2009 **Eric Delmar; Wikipedia Commons**



03

Voice Interviews

Music

Mattie Battle remembers living in Birmingham, Alabama when the song "Tuxedo Junction" was made popular

<https://bit.ly/3jqp2GZ>

Bessie Beckenridge talks about listening to radio programs playing country music and soap operas

<https://bit.ly/36NPkha>

Melissa Minor remembers life in California and in Warren where she enjoyed dancing and going to music performances in her free time. She recalls seeing B.B. King live

<https://bit.ly/3jpWTzT>

Julia Reed and Agnes Bryant discuss life as teenagers in Warren going dancing, skating and swimming in swimming holes. They also remember how they were not allowed in the city pool due to segregation

<https://bit.ly/3aO13iy>

Sports

Archie McMillian discusses playing baseball, getting drafted, and now coaching

<https://bit.ly/3tBroHG>

Charles Arnold remembers playing sports in high school and going on to professional basketball

<https://bit.ly/39XqbmC>
<https://bit.ly/3rtEGnG>

Fred Harris talks about playing football at Warren G Harding, the support of the coach for the black players, and setting a record while beating Massillon High School

<https://bit.ly/2N21m1W>
<https://bit.ly/3js5AcJ>

Mary Wright recalls not having the option to join school extracurriculars or activities as a black girl in an integrated school

<https://bit.ly/2YTQtPV>

Cleo Elkin discusses receiving his pilot's license

<https://bit.ly/3q2XqKC>

Mattie Battle discusses her beauty routine and recalls playing basketball and softball in high school

<https://bit.ly/3oYaT4X>



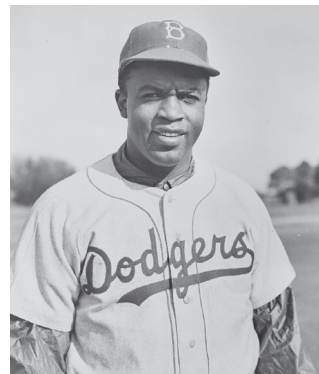
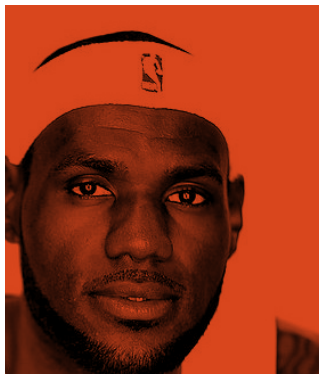
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05



06



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Primary Sources / Context

Music

An interview with Wynton Marsalis, a jazz musician.

<https://bit.ly/2YWukRc>

Tuxedo Junction

<https://bit.ly/2YSUOTF>

An early recording of B.B. King

<https://bit.ly/3jtSP1f>

Image of Jimmy Hendrix vest, 1960s

<https://s.si.edu/2YTUd3X>

Elvis and B.B. King, 1957

<https://s.si.edu/3pYpy1r>

Sister Rosetta Tharpe performing on stage

<https://s.si.edu/3rwLTU5>

General Life

A Christmas time home video from an African American family in the 1960s, the same time many of our interviewees are remembering

<https://s.si.edu/3aMhkmd>

1960's photo of an African American family in their apartment in Pennsylvania

<https://s.si.edu/3q0DYhl>

Staged family portrait from the 1960's

<https://s.si.edu/2YVrETO>

Sports

An image of Jim Brown a famous African American football player for the Cleveland Browns

<https://s.si.edu/3cPH589>

Jackie Robinson interview

<https://bit.ly/3tANKZR>

Lebron James, 2005

<https://s.si.edu/39YlacZ>

1965 basketball game

<https://s.si.edu/2O5BpfR>

2 baseball players, 1930's

<https://s.si.edu/39VMpow>



08

Secondary Sources

Music

History of Jazz

<https://bit.ly/3aHOQdx>

Brief history of African American music in the US by The National Museum of African American History and Culture

<https://s.si.edu/3aXYEk3>

Roots of African American music, Smithsonian

<https://s.si.edu/2MMqmYC>

Reading Resources for Music NMAAHC

<https://s.si.edu/3tBzklY>

Sports

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, Sports: Leveling the Playing Field exhibit and curator speaker video

<https://s.si.edu/3q2ONQ3>

The National Museum of African American History and Culture blog post focusing on women in basketball

<https://s.si.edu/3tzY2cl>

Reading Resources for Sports NMAAHC

<https://s.si.edu/3aHagaW>

Beauty

The National Museum of African American History and Culture blog post about Madam C.J. Walker and Annie Malone, pioneering women in the African American beauty industry

<https://s.si.edu/3jzmmXx>

General

African American Culture

<https://bit.ly/2MBmdac>

Picture Books

Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream by Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan

Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball Dream by Crystal Hubbard

Chapter Books

42 is Not Just a Number: The Odyssey of Jackie Robinson by Doreen Rappaport

Writing Prompts / Activities

Grades 4-5

01.

Watch the family home video and look at the 1960s family photos. Choose two **Voices** clips and relate them to the home video and photos. The people being interviewed are remembering the same time period. Can you identify **differences** in your lives today versus the ones being shown in the images and being talked about in the Voices videos?

02.

Watch the **Voices** videos where people are recalling playing **sports** both professionally and in school. Browse through the “**Leveling Up**” resources from The National Museum of African American History and Culture and **give examples** of African Americans

breaking barriers in sports. What were the **Voices experiences** like in sports? Are experiences like these represented in the “Leveling Up” exhibit?

03.

Explore the resources about African Americans in **music** and watch the **Voices videos** discussing music and dance. **Use the resources and in your own words** explain an aspect of music that is attributed to African American musicians.

passed, how would that have changed their experiences in sports?

03.

Watch the **Voices** videos discussing **music and dancing**, then choose resources about music and relate them to the Voices interviews. How have African American musicians influenced popular music in America throughout time? Be sure to explore the artifacts in the Smithsonian resource. Explain the importance of one of the artifacts to music. Can it be related to one of the **Voices** interviews?

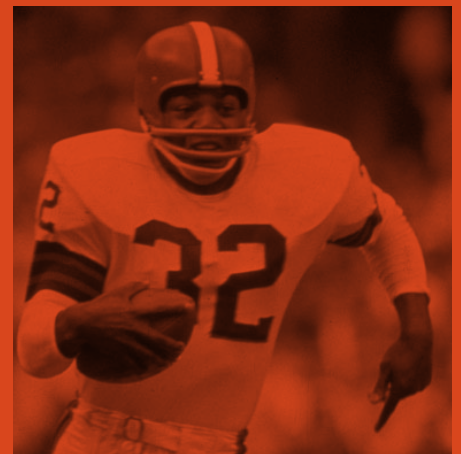
Grades 6-8

01.

Watch the **Voices** videos in this packet about sports. Browse The National Museum of African American History and Culture “**Leveling Up**” resources. Can you explain the hardships that African Americans faced in **sports**, both high school and professionally? Include the experiences you heard about from Warren residents in the Voices videos.

02.

Watch to the Voices videos of women, Mattie Battle and Mary Wright, in **sports**. Read the Museum’s blog post about African American **women in basketball**. Compare and contrast the experiences of the Warren women in the Voices videos and those in the blog post. Ms Battle and Ms Wright were in high school before Title XI was



i.

i. Jim Brown #44, 1956, **Syracuse University Archives**

Page 2

04. B.B. King poses for a portrait, 1950 **Gilles Petard; Redferns**
05. Rosetta Tharpe, the Godmother of Rock and Roll performing in New York’s Cafe Society 1940 **Charles Peterson; PBS American Masters Collection**
06. LeBron James #6 of the Miami Heat poses for a portrait during media on September 30th in Miami, Florida 2013 **Mike Ehrmann**
07. Jackie Robinson in his Brooklyn Dodgers Uniform 1950 **The U.S. National Archives**
08. Vest worn by Jimi Hendrix, 1960 **Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

