

**Long Time Coming: Creating a Monument to Abijah Prince**  
**African Americans in the Making of Early New England, an NEH Landmarks Workshop**  
**Michele Celani and Vickie Walsh**  
**July 14, 2017**

**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 slavery 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, [map of the cemetery](#), and dedication program. 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 to a walk around the room to see how other groups reacted.
  - First reactions?
  - What do you like/dislike about 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](#)

[Abijah Prince](#)

## 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 Abijah Prince and create a brief video presentation that includes: the purpose for the monument, the proposed location of the monument, an image of their proposed monument, and the monument text.

- Driving Questions
  - What does it look like? Including dimensions. (Math connection)
    - Possibility to for STEM/STEAM component where 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 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 Elijah Prince.