

Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force

12:25 p.m. | Session 3

Resiliency In Time of Struggle

Speaker: Lonna C. Sullivan,
Horizon High School



Porches: Resiliency in Times of Struggle

**African American History Task
Force Virtual Summer Institute**

June 2026

Lonna C. Sullivan, M.Ed.

Lonna C. Sullivan, Presenter

- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Pictured in 1962
- Florida Educator
- Bachelor's in Social Work
- Master's in Secondary Education



Lonna Sullivan and Yvonne Rachel – Cincinnati, Ohio - 1962

Presentation Purpose

This session will examine the characteristics of resilience within the African American community during the Great Migration, Civil Rights Movement and current events.

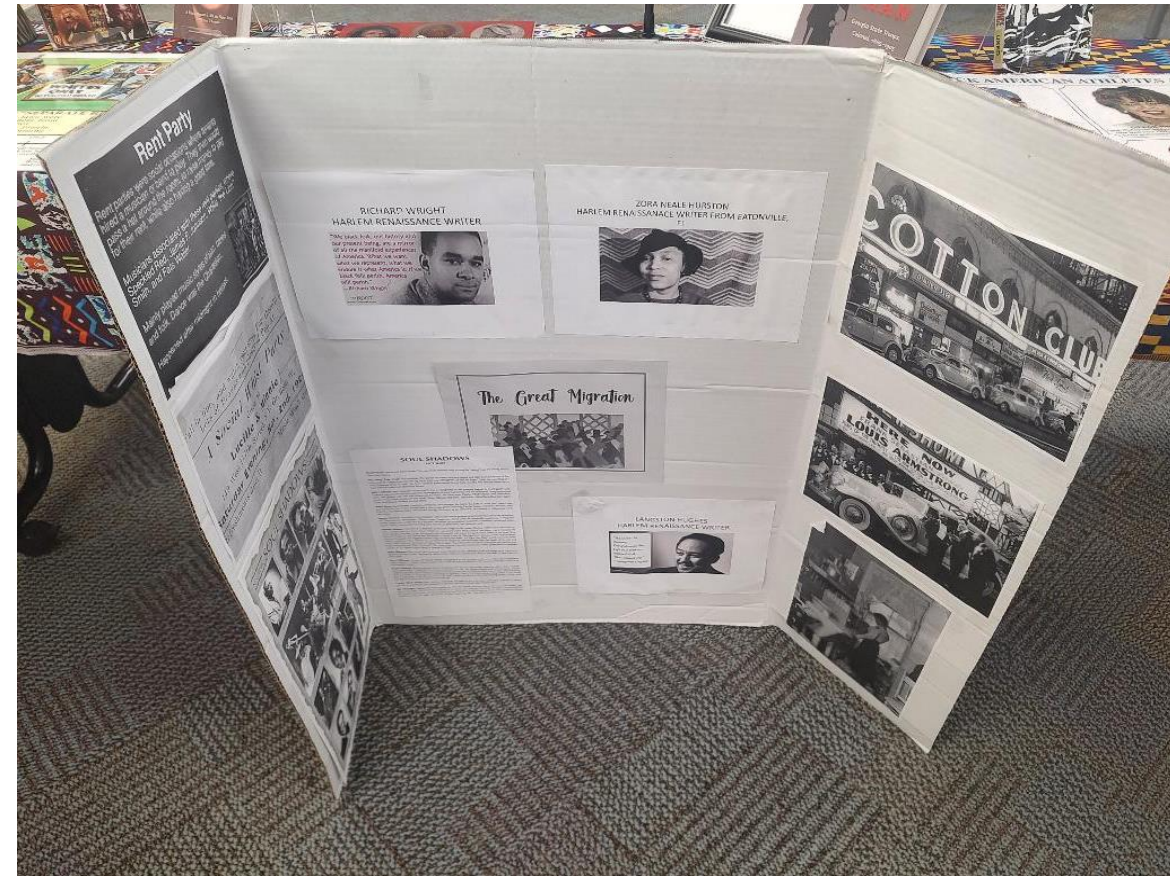


African American Family – The Great Migration 1920

Florida Academic Standards African American History

The 9-12 African American History Standards address a wide-range of topics from 1609 to present.

- **SS.912.AA.1:** Examine the causes, courses, and consequences of the slave trade in the colonies from 1609-1776.
- **SS.912.AA.2:** Analyze events that involved or affected African descendants and changed the American economic, political, and social landscapes between 1776-1865.
- **SS.912.AA.3:** Identify significant events, figures and contributions that shaped African American life from 1865-1954.
- **SS.912.AA.4:** Analyze economic, political, legal, and social advancements of African Americans and their contributions and sacrifices to American life from 1954 to present, including factors that influenced them.



Tri-fold from Sullivan African American History exhibit

Guiding Question

How did African Americans build community during the Great Migration, Civil Rights Movement and currently?



African American men gathered on a porch.

What is a Porch?

- A porch (from Old French porche; from Latin porticus 'colonnade,' from porta 'passage')
- A porch is a covered shelter projecting in front of the entrance of a building.



Black children on a porch

Elements of the Porch

- Many African American elderly women served as “watchers” in the community.
- Civil Engagement
- Community Identity
- Neighborhood Codes of Conduct



Four elderly women on the porch

Florida African American Communities

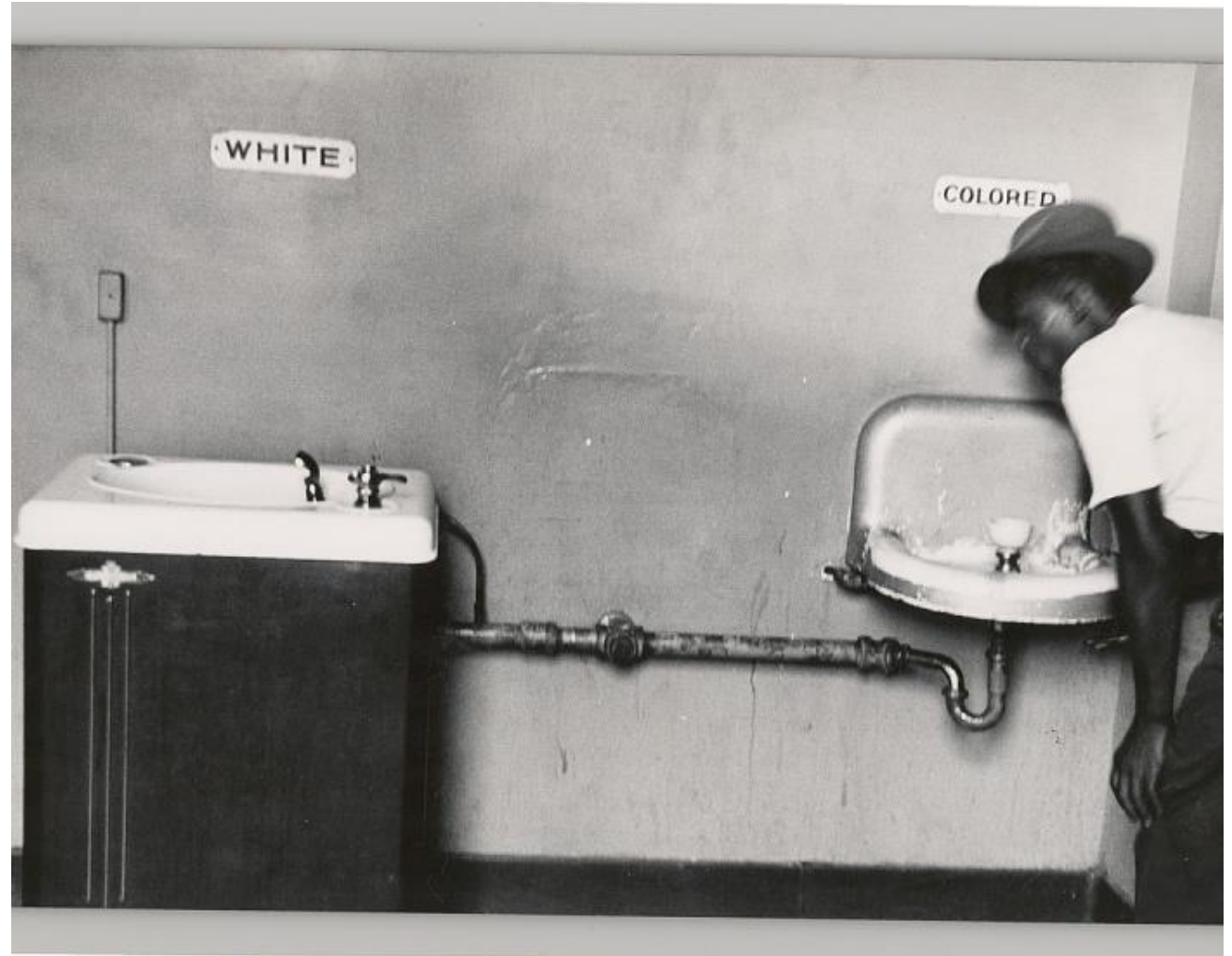
- **Historic Town of Eatonville**
 - Officially incorporated as a municipality on August 15, 1887, Eatonville is the oldest African American settlement in the United States.
- **Historic Town of Lincolnville**
 - Lincolnville was established in 1866 by freed slaves and was originally called “Little Africa.”
 - Served as a hub for Civil Rights Movement.
- **Historic Town of Ocoee**
 - Ocoee was established in 1886 by Dr. H.K. Clarke, Charles J. Chunn, and R.B.F. Roper.
 - The Ocoee Massacre took place on November 2, 1920.
- SS.912.AA.3.14



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in St. Augustine - 1960

Life In the Jim Crow South

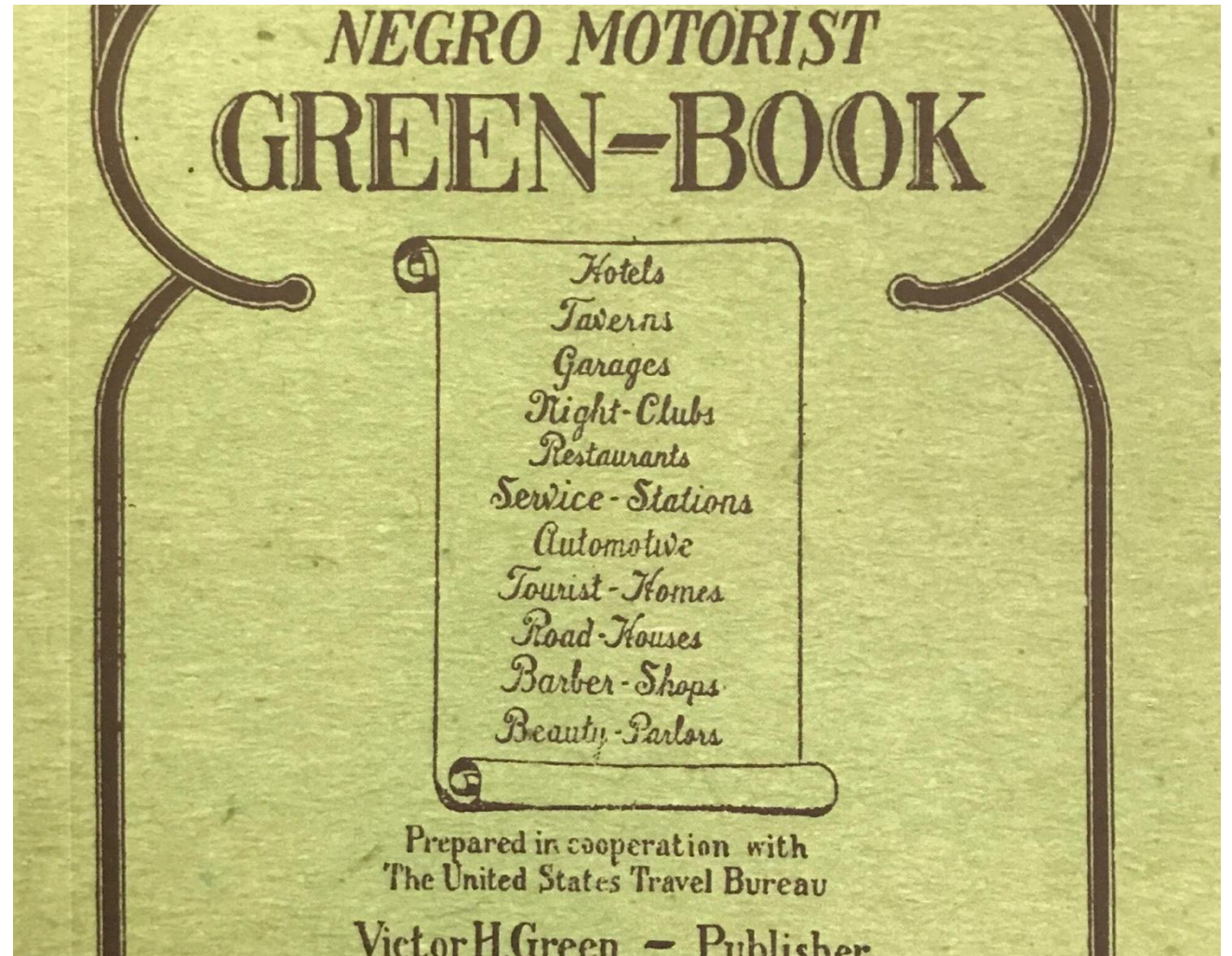
- Jim Crow Laws
- Sharecropping
- Lynching
- Convict Leasing
- Justice System
- Educational System
- SS.912.AA.3.6



Picture of Jim Crow water fountains

Leaving Jim Crow

- Traveling from the South to Northern cities could be risky.
- Approximately six million Black Americans left the South between the 1910s and 1970s to escape severe racial oppression, violence and economic inequality.
- African Americans sought political freedoms, better education and jobs.
- SS.912.AA.3.9



Picture of Green Book cover

The Great Migration

- The Great Migration happened between 1916-1970.
- African Americans moved from Southern states to Northern cities to find better economic opportunities, social freedoms and educational advancement.
- SS.912.AA.3.9



African American Family – The Great Migration 1920

Housing

- Approximately 6 million African Americans left the South for cities like Detroit, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.
- This picture is inside a housing tenement in Detroit, Michigan.
- SS.912.A.3.8



A young African American boy in Sojourner Truth Apartments in Detroit, Michigan

Strong Family Units

- African American families understood the importance of maintaining strong familial foundations as they navigated new cities.
- SS.912.AA.3.6



African American family living in Detroit, Michigan

Multigenerational Influence in Black Communities

- Navigating new cities and opportunities required wisdom and guidance from elder to younger generations.
- In families throughout the entire community, elders, grandparents and parents provided spiritual, nutritional and moral guidance.
- SS.912.AA.3.6



Young boy reading with an elder

Neighborhood Codes

- As members of their communities, African Americans understood “spoken” and “unspoken” codes of conduct.
- Children were taught to respect elders.
- Bonds existed between families.
- Sharing was a strong element in economic survival.
- SS.912.AA.4.2



Picture of Lonna Sullivan (swinging) with family and friends during a community backyard picnic.

Economics

- Creative economics such as “rent parties.”
- Compared to low wages in the South, black income increased about 30% in Northern cities.
- Employment opportunities included steel mills, factory work, railroads – Pullman Porters.
- Black households earned \$0.40 compared to \$1.00 in white families.
- SS.912.AA.4.12.



Pullman Porter

Role of the Black Church

- Civil Rights Meeting at church in Memphis, Tennessee.
- The black church served as community meeting centers during the Civil Rights Movement.
- African Americans are guided by their faith in several aspects of community and social life.
- SS.912.AA.2.1



Community church Civil Rights meeting

Advancement Through Education

- The Little Rock Nine with Daisy Bates in 1957.
- African Americans understood, even today, that education is foundational to the growth of community and future generations.
- SS.912.AA.4.7



Little Rock Nine at Daisy Bates's Home – 1957

Creative Expression

- Harlem Renaissance
- Inventions for easier living
- Through resilience, creativity and innovation, African Americans have shaped the arts, sciences, economics and every aspect of our nation's progress.
- SS.912.AA.3.10



Harlem Renaissance Musicians and Singer

Social Advancement

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Community Activist
- Political engagement moved from conversations on the “porch” to visible movements.
- SS.912.AA.4.5



Women registering people to vote

For Love Of Country: Military Service

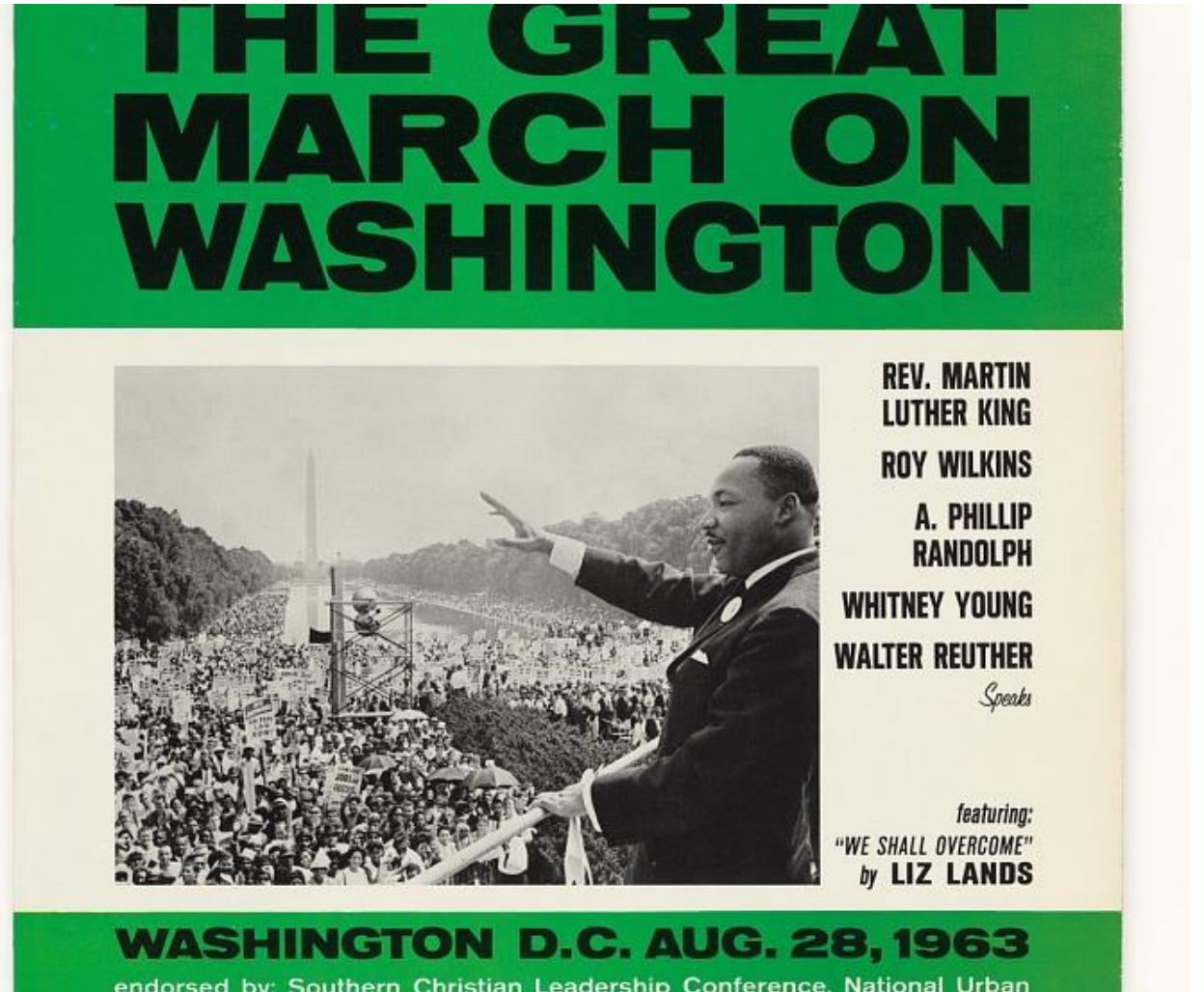
- Service in all branches of the United States military.
- From “porches,” young African American men and women decided to engage in quests in democracy through military service.
- Many young people followed examples of their ancestors who served in the military.
- SS.912.AA.4.3



Tuskegee Army Airfield in Italy – WW2 1945

Political Influence

- Civic engagement for social equality
- Voter registration
- NAACP – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- SS.912.AA.4.4



**THE GREAT
MARCH ON
WASHINGTON**

**REV. MARTIN
LUTHER KING
ROY WILKINS
A. PHILLIP
RANDOLPH
WHITNEY YOUNG
WALTER REUTHER**
Speaks

featuring:
"WE SHALL OVERCOME"
by **LIZ LANDS**

WASHINGTON D.C. AUG. 28, 1963
endorsed by: Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Urban

Civil Rights Movement

- From porches to Washington, D.C.
- Movements from porches become visible activism leading to the
 - 1964 Civil Rights Act,
 - 1965 Voting Rights Act, and
 - Fair Housing Act of 1968.
- SS.912.AA.4.10



March on Washington attendees waiting for the bus

Effectual Results of the Porch

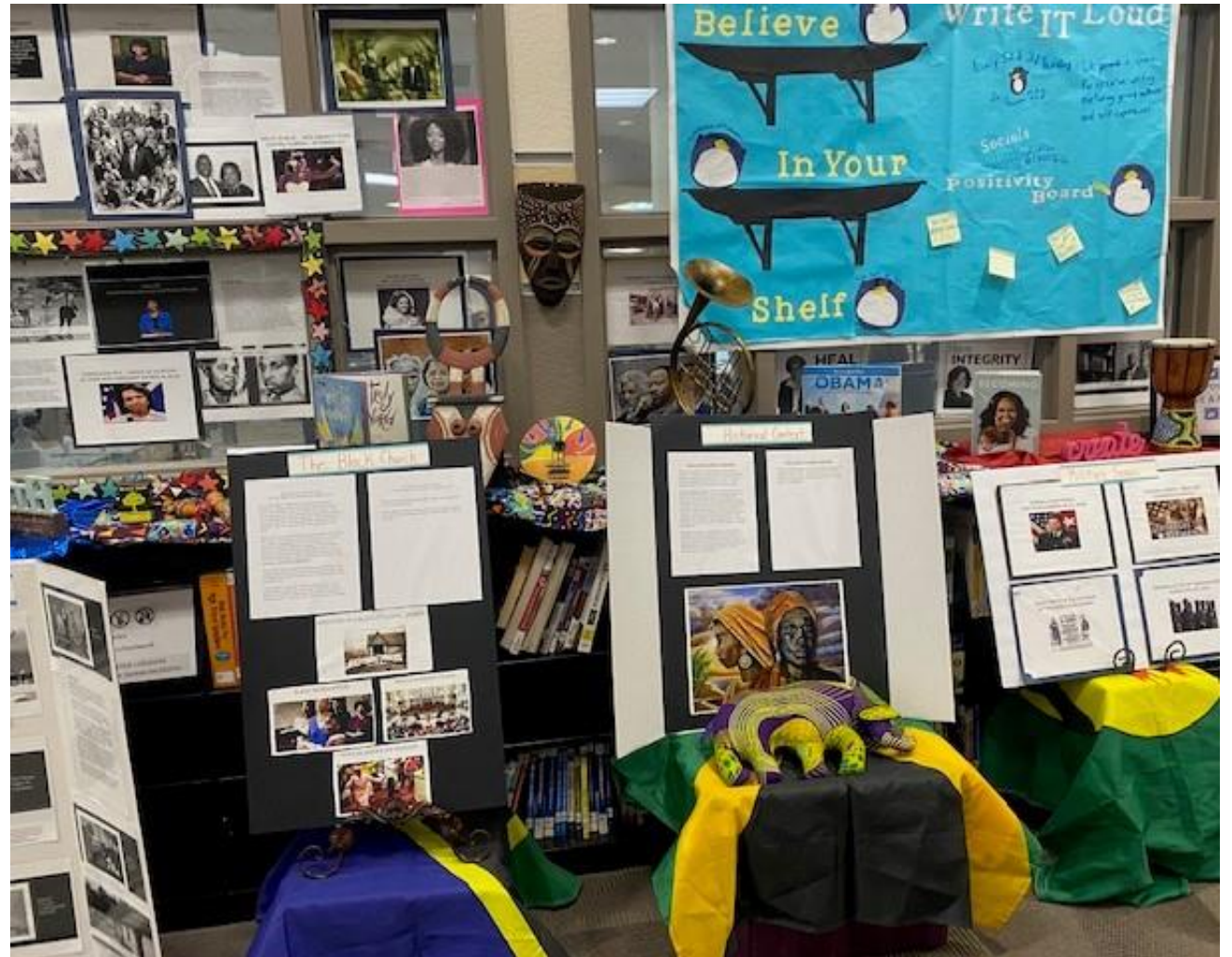
- Front porches have long served as gathering places where African American voices strengthened communities and contributed to progress.
- The election of President Barack Obama highlighted the impact of civic participation and the efforts of ordinary people.



President-elect Barack Obama November 2008

Building A Lesson

- Possible Topics: The Great Migration, The Civil Rights Movement, The Harlem Renaissance
- Students can also research African American influence in cities like Detroit, New York, Philadelphia and others in the North, Midwest and West Coast.



Portrait of Sullivan African American History exhibit

Build A Lesson Using the Town of Eatonville

- Use the Town of Eatonville or any Florida city to examine the past, present and future predictions of African Americans who have and currently live there.
- Recommendations: Orange County History Center



Zora Neale Hurston and neighbors in
Eatonville, Florida

Zora Neale Hurston and neighbors in Eatonville, Florida

Questions?

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