Lesson 1: Overview of Black Philadelphia history from 1780-1838

Moments in the Black Philadelphia Antebellum Timeline

Name: _____

Date/Time Period Assigned: _____

What happened during this moment in time?	
Who was involved, and what were their roles?	
What theme(s) does this moment reflect? **☐ Community Leadership ☐ Education ☐ Labor** **☐ Activism ☐ Other: _____**	
Why does this moment matter?	
What new questions do you have about this moment?	
Citations or Source Notes (include timeline entries or additional resources):	

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Group	Moment in Time	Additional Resources
1	1776 - Enslavement and Emancipation	• Philadelphia Manumissions Book- a list of names of people of African descent manumitted or legally freed from enslavers. • Turner, E. R. (1911). *The Negro in Pennsylvania: Slavery--servitude--freedom, 1639-1861*. American Historical Association.
2	1766 - Founder James Forten	• Forten, J. (1836). *An Address Delivered Before the Ladies' Anti-slavery Society of Philadelphia, on the Evening of the 14th of April, 1836* (Vol. 30, No. 2). Merrihew and Gunn. • Winch, J. (Fall 2024). James Forten, Sailmaker. In C. Berkin (Ed.), *Black Entrepreneurship in America*. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/essays/james-forten-sailmaker
3	1770 - The Rise of Education for Black Children: Anthony Benezet	• Kammerer, E. (2017). *Uplift in schools and the church: Abolitionist approaches to free Black education in early national Philadelphia*. *Historical Social Research*, *42*(1), 299-319.
4	1789 - The Rise of Black Political Organization: The Free African Society	• Preamble of the Free African Society (1787). In W. Douglass (Ed.), *Annals of the first African church, in the United States of America: now styled the African Episcopal church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, in its connection with the early struggles of the colored people to improve their condition, with the co-operation of the Friends, and other philanthropists; partly derived from the minutes of a beneficial society, established by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others, in 1787, and partly from the minutes of the aforesaid church*. King & Baird, Printers.
5	1789 - The Rise of Legal Opposition to Enslavement: The Pennsylvania Abolition Society	• Newman, R. S. (2002). The PAS and American abolitionism: A century of activism from the American revolutionary era to the civil war. *Historical Society of Pennsylvania*.
6	1790 - The Rise of Black Social Organization: Congo Square and The First Black Burial Ground	• Petition for burial ground. (1782). In W. Douglass (Ed.), *Annals of the first African church, in the United States of America: now styled the African Episcopal church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, in its connection with the early struggles of the colored people to improve their condition, with the co-operation of the Friends, and other philanthropists; partly derived from the minutes of a beneficial society, established by Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and others, in 1787, and partly from the minutes of the aforesaid church*. King & Baird, Printers.

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		• Cohen, A.J. (2024). *Black history in the Philadelphia landscape: Deep roots, continuing legacy*. Temple University Press.
7	1792 - The Beginning of Black Churches: The Great Walkout	• The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (n.d.). The great walkout. http://www.aecst.org/walkout.htm
8	1792 - The Rise of a Stable Regional Center: Mother Bethel AME Church	• Allen, R. (1880). *The life, experience, and gospel labors of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen: to which is annexed, the rise and progress of the African methodist episcopal church in the United States of America: Containing a narrative of the yellow fever in the year of our lord 1793: With an address to the people of color in the United States*. F. Ford and MA Riply.
9	1793 - The Formation of Black Leadership: The Yellow Fever Epidemic	• Jones, A., & Allen, R. (1794). A narrative of the proceedings of the Black people during the late awful calamity in Philadelphia in the year 1793. *American Journal of Public Health*, *109*(10), 1336-1337.
10	1794 - The Formation of a Black Elite: The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas	• St. Thomas' Church (n.d.). Births and baptisms, 1795-1837, Absalom Jones. *Philadelphia Congregations Early Records.*
11	1791 - The Beginnings of Global Black Solidarity: 1794 Haitian Liberation	• Nash, G. B. (1998). Reverberations of Haiti in the American North: Black Saint Dominguans in Philadelphia. *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies*, *65*, 44–73.
12	1814 - Building a Sense of a Unified Black Community: The Gray's Ferry Redoubt	• Dunkley, D. A. (2022). Black Radicalism in the Episcopal Church. *Anglican and Episcopal History*, *91*(3), 284-285.Dunkley-BlackRadicalismEpiscopal-2022.pdf

13	1817 - The Beginning of an African-American Identity: The Great Decision	• Garrison, W. L. (1832). *Thoughts on African colonization, or, an impartial exhibition of the doctrines, principles and purposes of the American colonization society: Together with the resolutions, addresses and remonstrances of the free people of color*. Garrison and Knapp.

