

The Rural Experience in America Community Civics Through Historical Inquiry CSRA Rosenwald Schools

What is Rural America? Students will investigate rural America and how the definition applies to Jefferson County.

What is Oral History? Oral history is a technique for generating and preserving original, historical information (primary sources) from personal recollections through planned recorded interviews.

Community Partners: Georgia Historical Society & Elderite Association

NAACP, Daughters of American Revolution (DAR), Kiwanis Club, African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), Wrens High School Alumni, Jefferson Recorder, Retired Teachers of Jefferson, Wrens Baptist, Food Bank of Wrens, Young Men/Women United

Teachers will:

- ★ use the knowledge gained from participating in the grant-funded National Council for History Education (NCHE) professional development program, *Teaching with Primary Sources* program to increase rural students' community history awareness. During this 3-part colloquium, the teacher learned specific techniques on how to implement instructional strategies that emphasize the importance of the rural American experience and ways to increase students' ability to connect to their local rural history as well as the larger human experience.
- ★ Teachers will receive a total of \$1500.00 to offset instructional costs.

Students will:

- ★ conduct in-depth research and investigate the local and regional histories of the CSRA. Students will focus TJ Elder Middle and Laney High School and how the establishment of public schools in Georgia affected rural areas.

Students will use this research to:

- ★ analyze how Rosenwald schools affected CSRA rural agricultural economy up until the late 1970s.
- ★ discuss the geographical importance of CSRA, and why it was initially selected as the site for the first land grant university in America.
- ★ describe how the social and political landscape has changed over time in the CSRA with an emphasis on integration and Civil Rights.
- ★ determine how rural places like the CSRA have shaped the history of the United States.
- ★ conduct historical oral interviews with community members on their personal interaction with Rosenwald Schools.

Students will be required to:

- ★ participate in historical research.
- ★ create interview questions to ask study subjects.
- ★ assist and participate in the interview process.
- ★ collaboratively determine how to archive results.
- ★ share how their histories connect to the larger human experience.

Standards Addressed

SS8H6 Analyze the impact of Reconstruction on Georgia.

SS8H7 Evaluate key political, social, and economic changes in Georgia during the New South Era.

SS8H8 Analyze Georgia's participation in important events that occurred from World War I through the Great Depression

SS8H11 Evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.

L6-8WHST2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes. (ELA)

Oral Histories Implementation Timeline

- **1st 9 Weeks:** Begin Research (*research will be on-going*)
- **Beginning of 2nd 9 Weeks:** Create Interview Questions
- **End of 2nd 9 Weeks:** Interview Community/ Study Participants
- **Beginning 3rd 9 Weeks:** Interview Community/ Study Participants
- **End of 3rd 9 Weeks:** Analyze Data
- **Beginning of 4th 9 Weeks:** Archive Results
- **End of 4th 9 Weeks:** Present Data

8th Grade Field Trip: World of Coke and/or Aquarium/ Varsity (student paid)

Purpose: Students will visit the World of Coke to analyze Coca-Cola's commitment to rural markets in America and abroad. Students will create digital diaries to discuss how rural Jefferson County can benefit from Coca-Cola's policy concerning their international rural market initiatives.

Event	Location	Cost	Total
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			Cost
<p align="center">State Capital/National Center for Human Rights</p> <p>Purpose: Students will meet and greet state legislators that affect the rural economic policies of CSRA. Students will discuss rural education policy with the new director of The Office of Rural Education. Students will visit the Rosenwald exhibit at the National Center for Human Rights.</p>	Atlanta	(Free)	(Free)
<p align="center">Laney Walker Museum/Savannah Rapids</p> <p>Purpose: Students will review primary documents about Lucy Craft Laney. She was an American educator who, in 1883, founded the first school for black children in Augusta, GA. Her school modeled how other rural schools created and maintained African-American schools up until integration in the 1970s. Students will discuss how the creation of these schools affected the rural population in Jefferson County. Students will discuss how the fall line affected economic development in Middle GA</p>	Completed October 2022		
<p align="center">Speaker: J. Haley Milner Assistant Curator Savannah River Archeological Research</p> <p>Purpose: Students will listen to an assistant curator from the University of South Carolina about the importance of Rosenwald Schools and the rural experience in the CSRA region. Students will be given opportunity to analyze primary documents and discuss how Rosenwald schools affected development of African-Americans in the south.</p>	Completed November 2022		

<p align="center">Jimmy Carter Farm</p> <p>Purpose: Students will visit Jimmy Carter's boyhood rural farm to learn about sharecropping and tenant farming. Students will use this time to discuss how this farming technique helped shape Jefferson County's agricultural economy.</p>	White Plains	(Free)	(Free)
<p align="center">Georgia Historical Society</p> <p>Purpose: Students will conduct historical research on Rosenwald schools and adolescent life in CSRA Georgia.</p>	Savannah	(Free)	(Free)

Resources Needed			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tape Recorders *Head Video Cameras *Chaperones (1 for every 8 students?) *External Hard Drive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Time (During Connections to Conduct Interviews) *Transportation (Bus) 	<p><u>Abandonment in Dixie: Underdevelopment in the Black Belt</u> by Dr. Veronica Womack (2 copies)</p> <p><u>The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read</u> by Rita Lorraine Hubbard (classroom set)</p>	

