

# EXTEND your STUDENTS' LEARNING!

activities to follow "a Loudoun Slavery odyssey" program

1. **Explore the story and the sites brought to you in "A Loudoun Slavery Odyssey" out in the field with the Mosby Heritage Area's Loudoun Heritage Scavenger Hunt.** Students search for answers to questions at historic sites throughout the county. Students see relevant sites for African-American history including slave graves, plantations, Underground Railroad "safe houses," a Freedman's Bureau site, and churches and schools built by or for the freedmen after the Civil War. *Directions to each site are included with the scavenger hunt brochure.* If at least two of the Loudoun scavenger hunts are completed correctly, the student receives a Mosby Heritage Area t-shirt. With so many people new to Loudoun, this activity gets *families* thinking and enthusiastic about their local history and a conversation going about it between parents and kids. You may find the t-shirt is enough incentive, but to *remind them* helps. ***When a student (or the teacher) sees a real place on the Underground Railroad or kneels and touches an American slave's grave, something very intimate, moving, and exciting happens!***

**Note: THESE Sites on the Loudoun Heritage Scavenger Hunt were touched on in the Loudoun Slavery Odyssey program:**

- Scavenger Hunt, Part A--Leesburg Walking Tour—Sites 1, 5, 12, 13, 14
- Scavenger Hunt, Part B—Northern Loudoun Tour—Sites 4, 7, 10
- Scavenger Hunt, Part C—Southern Loudoun Tour—Sites 1, 11

2. **Use other historic site exploratory programs to discover African-American history in Northern Virginia.**
  - a. "Virginia Time Travelers" Program—Dozens of historic sites and museums are listed state-wide; if students visit 6 sites, they get a "Time Travelers" t-shirt. To get students passports this year, check out their web site-- **[www.timetravelers.org](http://www.timetravelers.org)**. It's another good way to get students to learn Virginia history beyond class. If you want to encourage this with extra credit, you can indicate which sites you would most like them to visit, then have them show you their stamped Time Travelers passport and maybe a photo or journal entry. There are many African-American sites included in the "Virginia Time Travellers" program.
  - b. Walking Tours of African American History--Encourage students to go on a walking tour that focuses on Loudoun's African-American History. Booklets with tours are available from the Waterford Foundation (540-882-3018) to tour historic Waterford, once home to a very heavy African-American population, and the Thomas Balch Library for Leesburg (703-737-7195).
3. **Have students do a web search to learn of the African-American experience in Loudoun.**

- a. [www.balchfriends.org/Glimpse/index](http://www.balchfriends.org/Glimpse/index) Sponsored by the Friends of Balch Library—Balch Library is the history and genealogical library for Loudoun County’s past, operated by the Town of Leesburg)—this site has some 60 phenomenal and lively documents from Loudoun’s African-American history, a timeline, and capsule biographies of famous Loudoun African-Americans are highlighted.
  - b. [www.loudounhistory.org](http://www.loudounhistory.org) This web site looks at Loudoun history overall, and includes a significant amount of African-American history. It is penned and maintained by Loudoun historian Eugene Scheel. Scheel offers a course on African-American history in Loudoun for teachers; see teacher course offerings.
4. **Have students go to a program at an historical site dealing with African-American history, the Civil War, or other aspects of local history affecting Loudoun’s black population. Good places to check for these programs include calendars on the following web sites:**
- a. [www.civilwar.visitloudoun.org](http://www.civilwar.visitloudoun.org)
  - b. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org)