

KNOW YOUR HISTORY, KNOW YOURSELF

Exploring your history and its power

About This Guide

Welcome to Know Your History, Know Yourself. This is not going to be like most of your other history classes. In this class you, your family, and your community are the texts to 'read' and we will use your own unique talents to tell those stories back to the world. Carter G. Woodson once wrote, "if you own a person's thinking you don't have to worry about their actions". When you think about the history of your community is it a positive one? Why or why not? What stories are not being told? How might you re-tell the story of you community? This is your chance to explore, connect, and act!

Thank you to all of the people that contributed to this guide, young and old. Together, we are the leaders we've been searching for.

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EXPLORING CHICAGO'S STORY

Introduction

Think back to the last time you heard a story and reflect on the following questions. Respond in the space provided below:

1. What was the story?
2. Who was it about?
3. How did you know it was true or false?

In this guide we will:

- Explore our stories
- Connect our stories
- Act on our findings

Continue on next page



Additional Questions to Consider:

- What's in a story?
- What is the value of knowing your history?
- What is the danger of not knowing your history?
- How might connecting your past help you imagine your future?

A blank sheet of lined paper with horizontal ruling lines, set against a dark background. The paper is cream-colored and has rounded corners. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. In the background, there is a dark, slightly blurred image of a page with some text visible, including the letters "EP" and "US".

Homecoming

Kanye West

Yeah
And you say Chi city!
Chi city! Chi city!

Chorus:
I'm comin' home again
Do you think about me now and then? (Yeah)
Do you think about me now and then?
Cause I'm comin' home again (Ow!)
-Min' home again

I met this girl when I was three years old
And what I loved most, she had so much soul
She said, "Excuse me, little homie, I know you don't
know me
But my name is Wendy and I like to blow trees."
And from that point, I never blow her off
N***** come from out of town, I like to show her off
They like to act tough, she like to toe 'em off
And make 'em straighten up their hat 'cause she
know they soft
And when I grew up, she showed me how to go
downtown
In the nighttime, her face lit up, so astoundin'
I told her in my heart is where she'll always be
She never messed with entertainers 'cause they
always leave
She said, "It felt like they walked and drove on me."
Knew I was gang affiliated, got on TV and told on
me
I guess that's why last winter she got so cold on me
She said, "Ye, keep makin' that, keep makin' that
platinum and gold for me!"

[Chorus]

But if you really cared for her
Then you wouldn't've never hit the airport to follow
your dreams
Sometimes I still talk to her
But when I talk to her, it always seems like she
talkin' 'bout me
She said, "You left your kids, and they just like you
They wanna rap and make soul beats just like you
But they just not you," and I just got through
Talkin' 'bout what n***** tryin' to do: just not new
Now everybody got the game figured out all wrong
I guess you never know what you got 'til it's gone
I guess that's why I'm here and I can't come back
home
And guess when I heard that? When I was back
home
Every interview, I'm representin' you, makin' you
proud
Reach for the stars, so if you fall, you land on a
cloud
Jump in the crowd, spark your lighters, wave 'em
around
If you don't know by now, I'm talkin' 'bout Chi-Town

[Chorus]

Baby, do you remember when
Fireworks at Lake Michigan? Oh!
Now I'm comin' home again
-Min' home again
Baby, do you remember when
Fireworks at Lake Michigan? Oh!
Now I'm comin' home again
Maybe we can start again



What is Kanye Talking about?
What story is he telling about Chicago?



How do stories help us to connect to our past?

Homework

What song or poem reminds you of home? Of your history?



Where We're From

● Create a Poem ●

Choose one line from your
"Where I'm From" poem and as
a group, create a
"Where We're From" poem

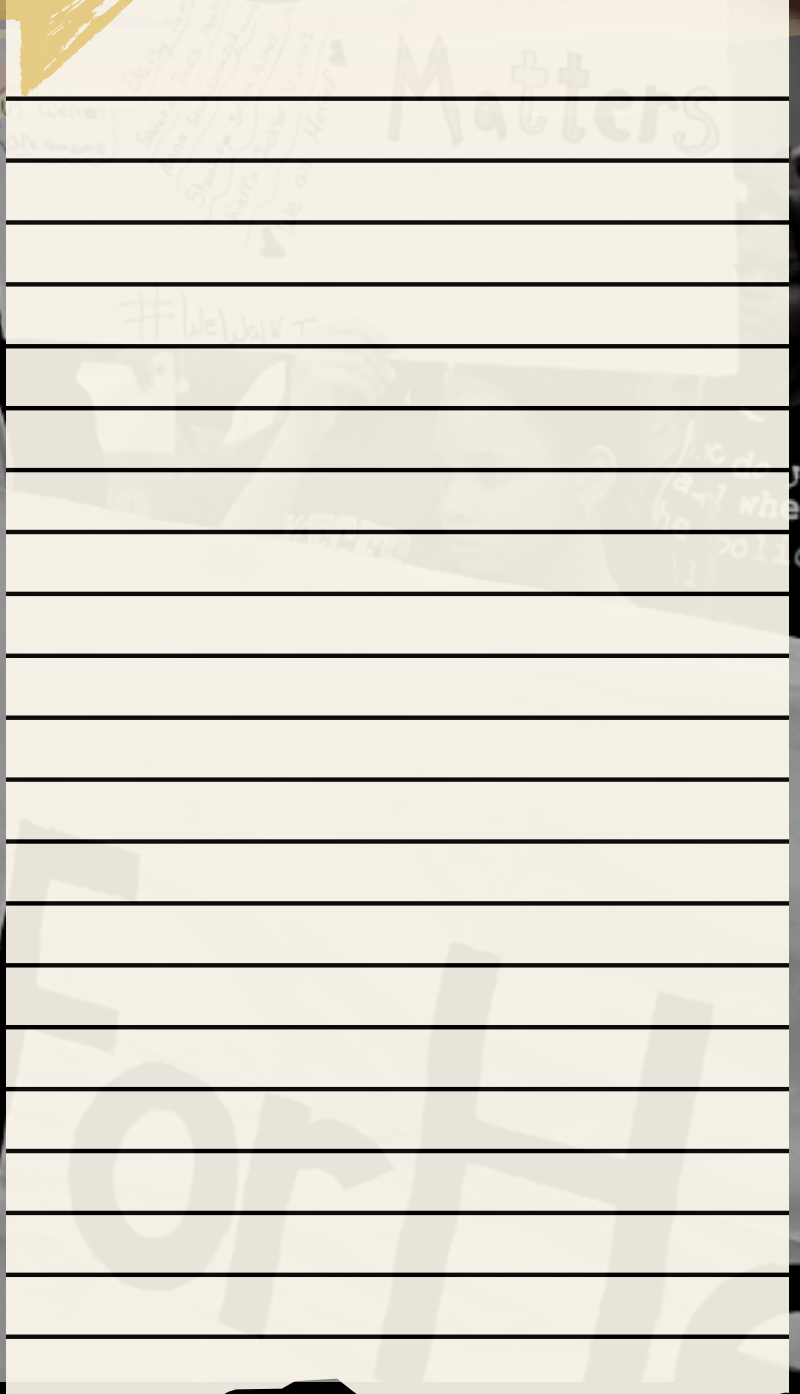
"Where I'm from" line:



”

Additional Questions to Consider:

- What does community & family mean to you?
- What family & community legacies do you not know about?
- How does knowing your past help you create your community's future?



What's Your Story?

Complete the following chart about your family or community.

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

How can you document your family/community legacy?

Documenting Our History

Let's explore the ways in which people have documented the stories of Bronzeville.

Each group will explore a different artistic medium and answer the questions in the space below:

1. What are the benefits of using this form?
2. What are its limitations?
3. How could this be used to explore your community?

Group 1: Chicago Defender

Group 2: Pictures

Group 3: Songs

Group 4: Video

Group 5: Artwork

Group 6: Quilt



Telling Our Story

To complete your research plan, complete the following questions:

Rewrite your research questions and write a summary of what you are exploring.

Who needs to be involved? _____

What equipment do you need? _____

Where will you go to conduct your research? _____

What are your next steps? List all of the steps necessary to complete your data collection.

What support do you need? _____

What stories did I collect?

To complete your research plan, complete the following questions:

Select a song that reminds you of the story you told. What is it?

Which story did you enjoy the most? Why?

How do you feel when you heard other people's stories?

How might you share these stories with others? Why might that be important?

Artifact Creation

Today we will explore ways other people have documented their history and consider a project that will help us to share our stories with others.

With the guest speaker, brainstorm ideas to turn your individual stories into a collective story. Decide on a final format for the class collective story.

Additional Questions to Consider:

- How can I turn the stories I collected into something for others to learn from?
- How do I want my story to be told?

Homework: Reflection Questions

How might our story help others in my community?

Why does the world need to see, hear, and feel our story?

Sharing our Connections


Today we will develop a plan to share our collective story with others.

Describe one idea for sharing our creation with others.

What steps are involved in accomplishing this idea?

Does this idea require funding? If so, how can you raise those funds?

What are the roles and next steps?



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