

**1 – Congress : Memorials in Washington D.C. : How does the Nation commemorate its history ?**

**Profile :**

- The Congress has the responsibility of managing the capital’s monuments.
- Washington D.C. holds a special place in the country: The federal government is located here. The main political events also take place there: president’s inauguration, Commemoration, majors protest marches ...
- Over time, a number of memorials have been built in Washington, especially along the National Mall

**1 –Congress - How does the Nation commemorate its History in Washington D.C.?**

**Group members**

**Key monuments :**

**Key Places in Washington for memorials :**

**Issues raised as to the question of the history of slavery and its legacy in the USA**

- Would you consider slavery to be central to American history? Or should it be considered as marginal?
- Can we consider that the emancipation act (1865) has put an end to the sufferings caused by slavery and established equality among Americans?

## 2 – A panel of historians:

### Profile:

- Historians have a critical role in the heated debate over American history. They try to put events in perspective, to explain rather than justify.
- They will need to explain what is perceived as a contradiction in the history of the country: how could the founding fathers combine the Constitution (America as the “land of the free”) and the authorization of slavery (until 1865)?
- This historical perspective stresses how the federal government had to be careful to combine 2 components of the Constitution: the guarantee of individual freedom and the necessity of building an “ever more perfect Union”... and thus guaranteeing the unity of the Country.

### 2 - Historians : Why was slavery deemed compatible with Constitution until 1865

### Group members :

#### Key dates :

#### Key characters

### Issues raised as to the question of the history of slavery and its legacy in the USA

- Would you consider slavery to be central to American history? Or should it be considered as marginal?
- Can we consider that the emancipation act (1865) has put an end to the sufferings caused by slavery and established equality among Americans?

### 3 – The abolitionist movement in the USA

#### Profile :

- This movement played a major role towards the abolition of slavery.
- It was a composite movement, Quakers, white and black, present in the North and the South... It shows that the USA have always been a country of progress. The importance of the abolitionist movement in the struggle to put an end to slavery in the USA.
- This movement is proof that US history cannot be limited to slavery. Americans fought slavery in the name of what they considered the real individual value: individual freedom

#### 3 - Abolitionist movement in the USA

#### Group members :

#### Key dates :

#### Key characters

#### Issues raised as to the question of the history of slavery and its legacy in the USA

- Would you consider slavery to be central to American history ? Or should it be considered as marginal?
- Can we consider that the emancipation act (1865) has put an end to the sufferings caused by slavery and established equality among Americans ?

**4 –Slavery at the heart of US history: An activist movement advocating for the strongest recognition of the memory of slavery**

**Profile :**

- This group represents activists and intellectuals promoting an alternative history of the USA. They argue that the slavery is a key element of US history... that should be acknowledge along the idea of Liberty.
- This group insists on the sufferings of slaves and their consequences on the African American community until today... And that these sufferings are still underestimated in American history... and to a large extent explain today’s inequalities and discrimination suffered by Afro-Americans in the USA.

**4 - Movement advocating for the strongest recognition of the memory of slavery after the abolition of slavery**

**Group members :**

**Key dates :**

**Key characters**

**Issues raised as to the question of the history of slavery and its legacy in the USA**

- Would you consider slavery to be central to American history ? Or should it be considered as marginal?
- Can we consider that the emancipation act (1865) has put an end to the sufferings caused by slavery and established equality among Americans ?

## Groupwork : Identify major figures The history of Slavery and its legacy in the USA

1619	Slavery at the heart of US history
The Amistad	Slavery at the heart of US history
Nat Turner's slave rebellion	Slavery at the heart of US history
Slavery, the Economic Engine of the South	Slavery at the heart of US history
American constitution and the 3/5 <sup>th</sup> compromise	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
Thomas Paine (position on slavery)	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
George Washington as the founder of Washington D.C.	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
National Museum of African American History and Culture	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
Slavery and the White House	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
1688 Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery	The abolitionist movement in the USA
Uncle Tom's Cabin	The abolitionist movement in the USA
Fredrick Douglass	The abolitionist movement in the USA
William Lloyd Garrison	The abolitionist movement in the USA
Harriet Tubman	Slavery at the heart of US history
The underground railroad	Slavery at the heart of US history
The fugitive slave Acts (1793 and 1850)	A panel of historians : Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
Missouri compromise	A panel of historians : Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
The emancipation Act	The abolitionist movement in the USA
The Anti Slavery Convention of American Women	The abolitionist movement in the USA
Abraham Lincoln	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
Jim Crow laws	A panel of historians Constitution and Slavery have been considered compatible
Juneteenth National holiday	Congress :
The Washington Emancipation memorial	Congress :
Lynching (and the memorial for peace and justice)	Congress :

### Sources :

- This timeline can be your starting point : <https://www.thirteen.org/wnet/slavery/timeline/1619.html>
- Most of the information can be found by a research by keywords : <https://www.history.com/topics>

### Additional sources :

- 1619 project : <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>
- 400 years since slavery: a timeline of American history (The Guardian) : <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/aug/15/400-years-since-slavery-timeline>