

Using Artifacts as Evidence: African Americans and the Miller Grove, Illinois Settlement

Grade	Elementary and Middle School
Level:	
Standards:	<p>CCSS.RI.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>CCSS.RI.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.</p>
Sources Used:	<p>Library of Congress and Other Sources</p> <p>Starr Revolver Patent, 1860 - https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/001_starr1860patent.jpg</p> <p>Colt Pistol Advertisement, 1912 - https://www.loc.gov/item/90709417/</p> <p>African American Soldier, 1917 - https://www.loc.gov/item/2017648676/</p> <p>Photograph Inside Cabin, 1895 - https://www.loc.gov/item/2006683529/</p> <p>Photograph Outside Cabin, 1895 - https://www.loc.gov/item/92506349/</p> <p>Man with Horse Pulling a Cart, 1861 - https://www.loc.gov/item/2006681111/</p> <p>Horses Hitched with Harnesses to a Plow, 1883 - https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3c27591/</p> <p>Man with Plow Pulled by a Horse, 1899 - https://www.loc.gov/item/2001703804/</p> <p>Putting Harnesses on a Horse, 1979 - https://www.loc.gov/resource/afc1981005.afc1981005_28_22753/?sp=1&q=1981005+horse</p> <p>African American Classroom, c. 1900 - https://www.loc.gov/item/2001699118/</p> <p>African American Family, c. 1900 - https://www.loc.gov/item/99472441/</p> <p>African American Soldiers, 1864 - https://www.loc.gov/item/cwp2003000505/PP/</p>

Introduction:

The Miller Grove settlement was established in the early 1800s by a group of freed slaves in Pope County, Illinois. African American settlements were not rare at this time in southernmost Illinois; however, it is fascinating that these communities continued to be established so close to the slave states Illinois bordered in the 19th century: Missouri and Kentucky. Tragically, the kidnapping of free African Americans in this region to gain profit by selling them into slavery was common in this area, yet these communities continued to thrive. For this reason, many scholars have revised their earlier assumptions about the Underground Railroad in southern Illinois and are starting to uncover clues about these African American communities' involvement in the Underground Railroad.

Source Information:

The artifacts recovered at Abby's Place, a site at the Miller Grove settlement, represent many facets of the family who lived there. Included in this collection are fragments of dishes, glass bottles, a horse harness buckle, pieces of a porcelain doll, a pig's tooth, a gnawed animal bone, and a piece of slate board, which would have been used for writing. Many of these artifacts have been 3D scanned and these files are available to download for 3D printing at: <http://educatingwithevidence.siu.edu/3d-archeological-resources%20/>.

Activity 1. Miller Grove Artifacts

Make a Claim. Record what you think each artifact is, who used it, and how it was used in the space provided.



Artifact 1

What is it?

Who used it?

What was it used for?

Artifact 2

What is it?

Who used it?

What was it used for?

Artifact 3

What is it?

Who used it?

What was it used for?

Artifact 4

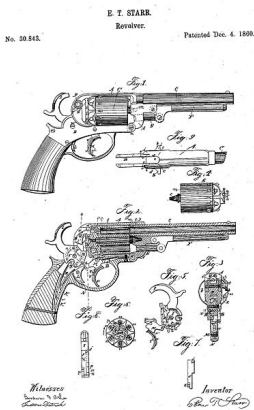
What is it?

Who used it?

What was it used for?

Activity 2. Connecting Miller Grove Artifacts to Evidence

Support Your Claim with Evidence. What sources could you use to support (or revise) your original claims about each artifact? Explain why.



Starr Revolver Patent, 1860



Colt Pistol Advertisement, 1912



African American Soldier, 1917



Boot Advertisement, 1848



Doll Advertisement, 1916



Beauty Products, 1908



Photograph Inside Cabin, 1895



Photograph Outside Cabin, 1895



Man with Horse Pulling a Cart, 1861



Horses Hitched with Harnesses to a Plow, 1883



Man with Plow Pulled by a Horse, 1899



Putting Harnesses on a Horse, 1979

Activity 2 Worksheet. Connecting Miller Grove Artifacts to Evidence

Support your Claim with Evidence. What sources support your claim about each artifact? Why?



Artifact 1

This artifact is a _____.

The evidence that supports my claim is _____

because _____

Artifact 2

This artifact is a _____.

The evidence that supports my claim is _____

because _____

Artifact 3

This artifact is a _____.

The evidence that supports my claim is _____

because _____

Artifact 4

This artifact is a _____.

The evidence that supports my claim is _____

because _____

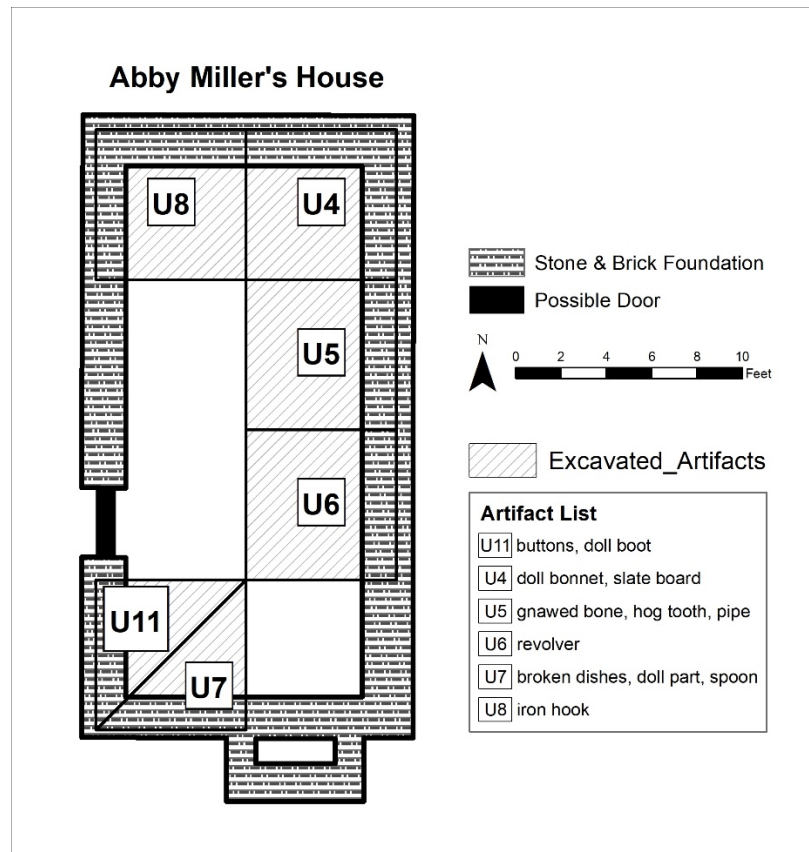
Activity 3. Using Miller Grove Artifacts as Evidence

Use Evidence to Support Your Claim. Archaeologists have created the sketch below to show us where each artifact (a pistol, a bottle, a doll leg, a horse harness hook, broken plates, and a piece of a slate board) was found at the Miller Grove dig site. Use this evidence to support your claim about who used this building.

The photograph to the right shows archaeologists working at the Miller Grove settlement in 2017.

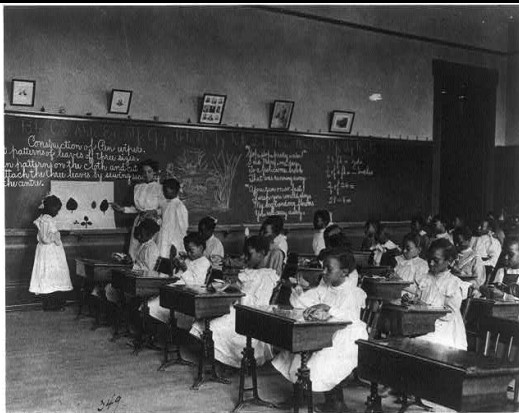


Outline of Miller Grove Cabin Walls and Artifacts Found



Activity 3 Worksheet. Using Miller Grove Artifacts as Evidence

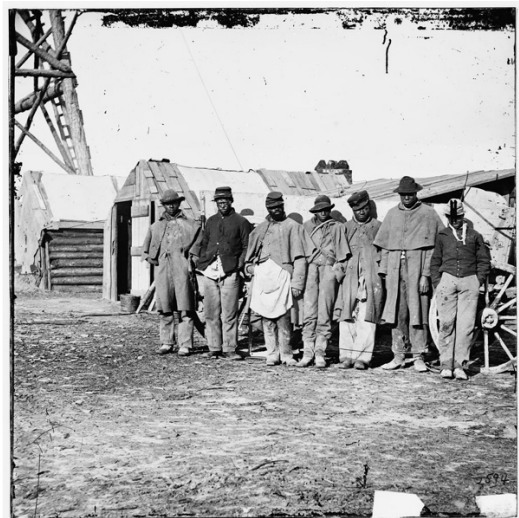
Use Evidence to Support Your Claim. Using clues from the previous page, how was this structure used? Was it a school for children, a family's home, or a fort for soldiers?



Was the building a school? Why?



Was the building a family's home? Why?



Was the building a fort for soldiers? Why?