



Paul Cuffe: Activities & Assignments

Activities:

Ask students to engage with the following questions, either in class or independently:

Have you ever heard of Sierra Leone? What about Liberia? Research the founding of these countries and write a 1-page summary of one or both.

How were Sierra Leone and Liberia viewed in the nineteenth century? What other views did people hold on the "colonization" movement? Do you think it is clear-cut that one side is right or wrong, or is it possible that there is a mix of right and wrong on both sides?

Assignments:

Ask students to write a 1-2 page paper discussing two sides of a complicated issue prominent today and how this situation might appear to future generations when they look back on it.

Ask students to read one or both of the two supplementary readings attached to this lesson: "Petition by Paul Cuffe, et. al. to the Massachusetts legislature, 1780" and "From Paul Cuffe to James Madison." Have them summarize the readings and/or use them as part of a longer paper on Cuffe's life and times.

Ask students to read a speech or statement by Jamaican activist Marcus Garvey, President-General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), such as his 1921 "If You Believe the Negro Has a Soul" (<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5124>) Have them research and write a paper analyzing how Garvey's Pan-Africanism and the "Back to Africa" movement for which he was a major advocate differs from, and is similar to, Paul Cuffe's colonization efforts in their goals and motivating beliefs.