

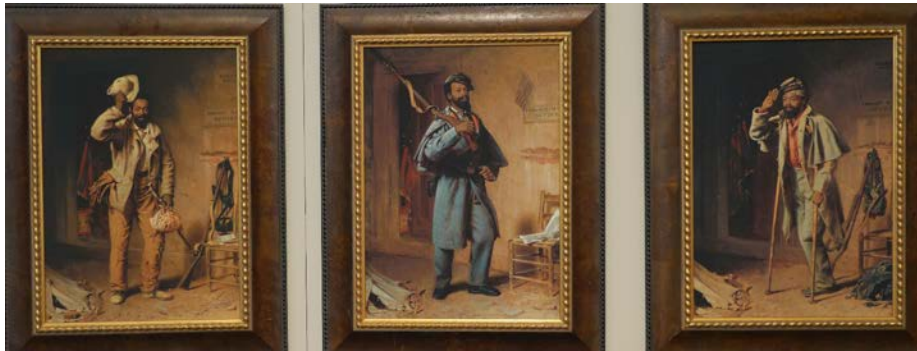
BLACK CITIZENSHIP

IN THE AGE OF
JIM CROW

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this discussion guide to find objects throughout the exhibition and spark conversations.

Despite not being citizens until after the Civil War, African Americans fought in the war not knowing whether they would be rewarded or recognized for their sacrifices.



*What similarities and differences do you see between the three paintings?
What story do you think they tell?*

What do you think this man was thinking and feeling?

Formerly enslaved African Americans now had the opportunity to own homes. William Fractious worked as a carpenter during the day and built this two room house for his family at night.



What does "home" mean to you?

How would having a home of their own help the Fractious family feel more free?

Credits: Thomas Waterman Wood, A Bit of War History: The Contraband, The Recruit, The Veteran, 1865, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Model of an A-frame house, Barry Farm, late 1860s, Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution.



The 15th Amendment granted African Americans the right to vote. Many began to vote in elections and hold political office despite the fear of hostile reactions from many white community members.



What do you think it felt like to put your vote in this box for the first time?

Why would voting be important for African Americans who could not vote before?

African Americans created safe havens in churches where they could gather together and feel free to be themselves. Baskets like this were used in churches to collect money as a way to support the community.



Where do you feel safe and supported?

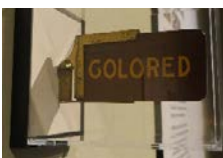
Why was it important for African Americans to have a community gathering space?

The 14th amendment granted African Americans citizenship but Jim Crow laws allowed public places to separate people based on the color of their skin. This sign showed people where they were required to sit on the bus.



*Have you ever been treated unfairly because of how you look?
What could you do to challenge this unfair treatment?*

How did African Americans challenge this unfair treatment at the time?



How do African Americans continue to challenge unfair treatment today?

Credits: Ballot box, New-York Historical Society, Gift of George H. Dean. Replica of Ku Klux Klan robe and hood, Lincoln County, Tennessee, ca. 1866, Chicago History Museum. Sweetgrass church collection basket, created for the exhibition by D'Sweetgrass Basketry, South Carolina. Jim Crow bus sign, ca. 1930-1950, New-York Historical Society.

