Teacher Briefing Sheet: Lesson Plan Three

This briefing sheet provides teachers background information on the twelve photographs/object photos found on the CD for Lesson Plan Three.

1. Photograph: Howard University Campus
Howard University, 1940. Howard University, established by act of Congress in 1867, is one of the oldest historically black universities in the United States. Howard provided education in social sciences, physical sciences, fine arts, law, and medicine at a time when most African American programs were devoted to vocational education. Courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives

2. Photograph: Howard University School of Law
This row house in downtown Washington was the home of the Howard University School of Law when Charles Hamilton Houston was dean. He strengthened the school’s academic standards and instilled a sense of social mission. Under Houston, the law school graduated a group of highly effective civil rights lawyers, the most illustrious of whom was Thurgood Marshall. Courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives

3. Photograph: Howard University School of Law Professors
A group of Howard University School of Law professors, including James Nabrit (extreme right), plan a year of curriculum on the blackboard. Courtesy of Courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives

4. Photograph: NAACP Lawyers
The legal team that prepared or argued the Brown case before the Supreme Court stands outside the Court building. (L to R) John Scott, James Nabrit, Spottswood Robinson, Frank D. Reeves, Jack Greenberg, Thurgood Marshall, Louis L. Redding, U. Simpson Tate, and George E. C. Hayes. Courtesy of Library of Congress

5. Object Photo: NAACP In Action Pamphlet
Baltimore had a very active NAACP chapter, and Thurgood Marshall was closely affiliated with it when he lived in Baltimore. Flyers like this one were used to publicize NAACP efforts and to recruit new members. This poster depicts African Americans lining up for voter registration in 1943. SI Collections

6. Object Photo: NAACP Button
This button, produced in 1933, marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It advertises the NAACP’s “New Crusade for Liberty” in the important areas of voting and education. SI Collections
7. Photograph: Thurgood Marshall

8. Object Photo: Marshall’s law books
These law books from the personal library of Thurgood Marshall were used for research and as sources to cite important cases as precedent. Although many colleges and universities had public law libraries, African American lawyers were often prohibited from using them and were forced to make do with their personal collections. SI Collections

9. Photograph: Hayes, Marshall, Nabrit on Supreme Court Steps
Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit, and George E. C. Hayes celebrate the Brown decision on the steps of the Supreme Court. Courtesy of Library of Congress

10. Photograph: Houston arguing a case in court
Charles Hamilton Houston continued to argue cases in court and work for equality in the legal community during his years as dean of Howard’s Law School. When the American Bar Association refused to admit African American attorneys, he helped found the National Bar Association, an all-black organization, in 1925. SI Collections

11. Object Photo: Houston business card
In 1924, after graduating from Harvard, Houston joined his father’s law firm in Washington, D.C. Father and son differed in their business approach. Charles often took on clients who were unable to pay for his services. Lent by Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives

12. Object Photo: Houston’s typewriter
This portable typewriter from Houston’s office is the kind that he used in the 1930s as he traveled around the south gathering information on the nature and effects of segregation. Lent by Charles Hamilton Houston Jr. SI Collections