



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Historic Theater: Join the Student Sit-Ins

with creative director Samuel Xavier Carnegie

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/sitin.mp3>

Discussion Questions

The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- Xavier discusses the idea of non-violence—what does non-violence mean to you? What people or historical moments come to mind when you think of this term?
- Why do you think the museum would choose to use theater to present information on select objects?
- What role does research play in developing these programs? What kinds of sources does Xavier use to prepare for his roles?
- Imagine that you were working at a museum and were asked to create a performance on a moment or issue in American history. What would it be and why? Where would you start your research for this topic?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- Stories of Freedom and Justice: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/freedomandjustice/>

Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Competing Voices of the Civil Rights Movement – from EDSITEment-
http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=730
- Hope, Faith, Freedom: Music of the Civil Rights Movement – from ArtsEdge
http://www.kennedy-center.org/education/cuesheets/single_cuesheet.cfm?asset_id=55103

Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

Era 9: Postwar United States (1945-1970s)

4A: The student understands the “Second Reconstruction” and its advancement of civil rights.

Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

2D: The student understands contemporary American culture.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

1. Xavier discusses the idea of non-violence—what does non-violence mean to you? What people or historical moments come to mind when you think of this term?

2. Why do you think the museum would choose to use theater to present information on select objects?

3. What role does research play in developing these programs? What kinds of sources does Xavier use to prepare for his roles?

4. Imagine that you were working at a museum and were asked to create a performance on a moment or issue in American history, what would it be and why? Where would you start your research for this topic?

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