Everytime I Close my Eyes

GUIDE FOR COUPLES

This self-guided experience asks you to explore history and how you can use it to learn more about yourself and others.
How can history help you to better understand yourself and others?

What is the point of history? Is it just a record of dates and names? Or can history be used for something more? This self-guided experience through the Community Galleries asks you to think about history and how you can use it to help it reflect on yourself, your experiences, and your world view. How can this help you understand others?

This is designed for couples. There are seven stops. Each stop asks you to consider a question(s) or an activity. Ask each other the questions and try the activities. You and your partner can do as few or as many stops as you like.

Below is a map of where you can find the locations.

1. Love and Basketball  
2. What’s Golf Got to Do With It?  
3. For the Love of Money  
4. A B C, That’s How Easy Love Can Be  
5. Summer, Summer, Summertime  
6. What’s Going On  
7. Ready or Not
Love and Basketball

In the early 1900s, African Americans used men’s and women’s basketball to help instill middle-class values and promote good health as part of the broader campaign for racial uplift. Since then, basketball has become more closely identified with African American culture than any other mainstream sport.

• Each of you pick out one object in the basketball display case. What three words would you choose to your object? What three words would you choose for your partner’s object?

• Would you rather be on an Olympic dream team led by Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, Lisa Leslie or LeBron James?

• What’s the first thing you noticed about your partner?

What’s Golf Got To Do With It?

Ethel Funches was one of the greatest African American golfers of all time. During the 1950s and 1960s, she won seven women’s national United Golfer’s Association tournaments.

• Find Ethel Funches’s golf bag and clubs. Do we still use these objects today? If so, how is it different or the same?

• Would you rather be always under-dressed or overdressed?

• Is there a personal goal that you would to achieve in the next five years?

For the Love of Money

Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877–1963) worked within and against the racial constraints of his time to build a successful business in Cleveland, Ohio. He patented several inventions. To market his inventions, Morgan recruited investors from the Black community and formed partnerships with white businessmen. Morgan also published a newspaper and was active in organizations promoting black social and economic advancement.

• Find Garrett Morgan’s safety hood. What do you think it is made out of?

• What would you do with your life if you suddenly became a billionaire?

• Would you rather have more money or more time? Why?
A B C, That’s How Easy Love Can Be

This two-room school in Pomaria, South Carolina, was one of thousands of schools built in the rural South with aid from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Hope School operated from 1925 until 1954 when it closed as a result of school desegregation and consolidation efforts. In 2009, a grassroots preservation campaign led to the renovation and reopening of the historic school house as a community center.

- Look at the Hope School room display and all of the objects. What do the objects tell us about the time period when the Hope School operated?
- How does your life compare to how you imagined it growing up?
- Would you rather give up air conditioning and heating for the rest of your life or give up the internet for the rest of your life?

Summer, Summer, Summertime

Just south of Cape Cod on the island of Martha’s Vineyard lies Oak Bluffs, a popular vacation destination for African Americans since the late 1800s. Seeking refuge from the daily trials and affronts of racial discrimination, African American families fashioned Oak Bluffs into a place of their own—a community of culture, affluence, and leisure.

- Watch the video about the history of African Americans in Oak Bluffs. This video is around four minutes. What is something you found interesting?
- What does leisure, play, and adventure mean to you?
- Would you rather spend seven days at an all-inclusive luxury resort or spend seven days completing the most scenic hike in the world?

What’s Going On

During the American Civil War (1861 - 1865), the Emancipation Proclamation granted freedom to enslaved people in all parts of the country in rebellion against the Union. The document also helped to set in motion the mass recruitment of African Americans into the Union Army.

- Look at all the objects and images displayed in this section about the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. Which one do you find most interesting? Explain why.
- What historical era would you most, and least, want to go to?
- Would you rather let bygones be bygones or get the final word?
The National Baptist Publishing Board used this time clock to track workers’ hours at its busy plant in Nashville. Founder R. H. Boyd (1843–1922) aimed to provide Black Baptist churches with an alternative source for religious publications from those supplied by white Baptist organizations.

- Look at the time clock. How do you think it worked to record time and hours for the workers?
- Would you rather change the past or predict the future?
- What’s something you think we do really well as a couple? What’s something you wish we did together more often?

So, how can history help you to better understand yourself and others?

CONTINUE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Enjoy a meal in the Sweet Home Café featuring a special menu takeover by Executive Chef Ramin Coles.
  
  Café Hours: 11am - 3pm

- Shop our Museum Store’s thoughtfully curated selection of Valentine’s Day gifts.
  
  Gourmet Chocolates from the Harlem Chocolate Factory
  Gifts from the Sheila Bridges Collection
  Frères Branchiaux Candles and Room Spray
  Clementine Hunter Homeware
  Love Poems by Nikki Giovanni
  For the Cook: The Spice Suite, Local Sauces & Seasonings, and Klancy Miller’s Cookbook, For the Culture

  Museum Store Hours: 10am - 5pm

Scan the QR Code to take a survey about your experience: