ROOM EXPLORATION GUIDE

Activity 1 - Slave Quarters

Click on the map that correlates with the slave quarters and view the space. The red dots will help you navigate the space.

1. Use adjectives to describe what you saw in the slave quarters.

2. What did you learn by visiting the slave quarters in the Owens-Thomas House?

3. What was one thing that stood out to you when visiting the slave quarters?

Activity 2 - Owens-Thomas House

Take the virtual tour of the main house, clicking on the pages, the red dots, and the green walking-man button. Turn to a partner and discuss the following questions. Respond in one to two well-written sentences.

1. The main house is filled with rich furniture and decorations. How do these furnishings contrast with those of the slave quarters?

2. The Lafayette Balcony is a famous historical site because the Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero, spoke from there decades after the American Revolution. What differences do you see between the ideals behind the American Revolution and the ideals behind the slave quarters of the Owens-Thomas House?

3. Why do you think the main house and the slave quarters are open for people to view? What can people learn from a tour of the Owens-Thomas House?
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Activity 3 - Wall of Names

Click on the virtual tour (the green walking man) for the slave quarters, then click on “Wall of Names.” Look at the names of the many people who were enslaved.

Choose a name from the wall of names. You now know where enslaved people at the Owens-Thomas house ate and slept. In the space below, write your thoughts and feelings about how the person you chose might have lived.

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Activity 4 - Primary Source

Frederick Douglass said the following:

In thinking of America, I sometimes find myself admiring her bright blue sky — her grand old woods — her fertile fields — her beautiful rivers — her mighty lakes, and star-crowned mountains. But my rapture is soon checked, my joy is soon turned to mourning. When I remember that all is cursed with the infernal actions of slaveholding, robbery and wrong, — when I remember that with the waters of her noblest rivers, the tears of my brethren are borne to the ocean, disregarded and forgotten, and that her most fertile fields drink daily of the warm blood of my outraged sisters, I am filled with unutterable loathing.

How do the words of Frederick Douglass apply to what you saw during the virtual tour? Respond in one to two well-written sentences.

Exit Ticket

What was your greatest takeaway from the virtual reality tour? What stuck with you?