

A Little History

1.) An Overview:

“A Little History” is a 60-75 minute, interactive educational experience geared towards upper elementary-aged students. Students will learn the importance of several important figures in Black History while utilizing the following skills:

- Clapping/snapping simple rhythmic patterns
- Dancing/moving freely
- Singing/playing drones
- Interpreting poetry



At the center of the education project is the work *A Little History*: a set of originally composed poems and pieces for solo narrating violist. The work, composed by Castle of our Skins's composer-in-residence Anthony Green, consists of 9 short vignettes, each approximately 1 to 3 minutes in length. Each vignette contains music, light text describing each historical figure, and built-in audience interaction to showcase the historical importance of 9 key figures in Black history:

- Phillis Wheatley (poet)
- Garrett Morgan (inventor)
- Madame CJ Walker (millionaire)
- George Washington Carver (farmer)
- Margaret Bonds (composer)
- Ed Bland (composer)
- Angela Davis (activist)
- Bayard Rustin (civil rights leader)
- Barack Obama (president)





2.) Outline:

The 60-75-minute workshop includes the following approximated sections:

- 60 minutes: Interactive performance of *A Little History*
- 15 minutes (additional): Completion of an in-class workbook for students to keep

3.) Materials Provided:

- Display placards of each historical figure as reference and display easel
- *A Little History* workbook (for 75 minute workshop only)
- Writing supplies (for 75 minute workshop only)
- 2 Music stands

4.) Materials Needed:

- Microphone (*depending on the size of the audience*)

5.) Cost:

- 60 minutes: \$300
- 75 minutes: \$350

6.) Excerpt of the Script:

Garrett Morgan

Have any of you in your whole life ever invented anything before?
Well, Garrett Morgan did! He made a hair product, and SO MUCH MORE!
He invented something we see every day on the street.
Garrett Morgan invented the stoplight! Isn't that neat?
There is another thing that he invented that you may know
It protects you from breathing bad things from above or below
Inventing this thing must have been a terribly difficult task
This thing that I speak about is called a gas mask.
Can you imagine how smart and intelligent he was?
All of his great inventions stirred up quite a buzz!
With his gas mask and stoplight, he has stopped many accidents!
I bet during his lifetime he received so many compliments!
He was a community leader, and he received prizes – he was truly a star!
And he was the first man in Cleveland to own a car.

*Student activity: clap different rhythmic patterns on cue *

If you are interested in bringing *A Little History* to your organization, please contact:

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