



Gullah Culture In-Class Activity

Grade Level: 3

Standards Addressed: 3-2.5

Background: Africans played a major role in developing the culture and economy of South Carolina. While the slave trade grew, enslaved Africans brought their knowledge of rice cultivation and technology with them. Their daily lives as people treated as property was unfathomable, but they were able to resist slavery in their own way by holding onto elements of their native African culture and blending it with that of the landscape of the South's Lowcountry. This new culture and language was called Gullah and is still one of South Carolina's most celebrated traditions. It is the most authentic African culture in America today.

Show students this video on Youtube: Gullah Traditions of the South Carolina Coast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INLoxvNjFiA>

Ask the students to name some aspects of the Gullah culture which include:

- Language
- Art
- Music
- Food

Split students into groups and have them create a story using a few Gullah words, a picture using some of the design elements of Jonathan Green, a song based on Gullah spirituals, or a recipe using Gullah ingredients and dishes. After they have explored various aspects of Gullah culture, pick a few groups to share with the class!

A few helpful resources:

Language- <http://gullahtours.com/gullah/gullah-words>

Art- <http://www.jonathangreenstudios.com/Artists/Jonathan-Green>

Music- check out "The Plantation Singers" on Youtube

Food- <http://discoversouthcarolina.com/articles/how-rice-built-a-lowcountry-legacy>