The Witness Stones Project

Connecting students to local history



What is the Witness Stones Project?

“The aim of the Witness Stones Project is to restore the history and honor the humanity and contributions of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities”.

- First implemented in Guilford CT in 2017
- Developed by Dennis Culliton, a Guildford High School History Teacher
- Modeled after the Stolpersteine Project in Berlin, Germany
- Focuses on the five themes of Slavery
- Directly connects to the 3Cs/Four Dimensions of Inquiry
- Promotes civic engagement and partnerships with local organizations
- Encourages interdisciplinary work

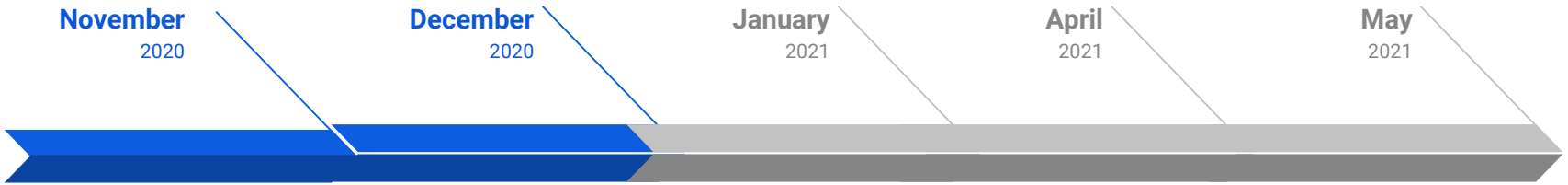
Components to the Witness Stones Project (WSP)

1. Students engage in research on one of nine enslaved people from the community
   -Possible visit to the FG Museum to see actual ledgers/source documents
   -Possible mini-poetry unit in ELA with local CT Poet Laureate

1. Students develop a presentation on the life and contributions of the person

1. Students will be invited to participate in the dedication ceremony in May on Lyme Street

Timeline of Events/Pilot Curriculum



Region 18 is invited to participate in the Witness Stones Project by the local WSP group.

Historial, Carolyn Wakeman, starts gathering source documents on enslaved people of Old Lyme.

7th grade ELA and SS teachers trained in WSP curriculum/documents / Planning begins for pilot

Implementation of curriculum in 7th grade Social Studies (with possible interdisciplinary work in ELA)

Community dedication of 8-9 Witness Stones along Lyme Street

Creating community connection, civic engagement and enduring understandings of the human condition

