Buried Truths acknowledges and unearths still-relevant stories of injustice, resilience and racism in the American South, using investigative journalism to honor lives and reveal what’s been hidden, not published and not taught.

The Peabody Award-winning podcast is produced by WABE and hosted by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, journalist, and professor, Hank Klibanoff.

Season one tells the story of Isaiah Nixon, a black man who was killed in 1948 for voting in the Democratic Primary earlier that day. Isaiah’s story provides insight into voter suppression, disenfranchisement and much more.

Season two tells the story of A.C. Hall, a black teenager who was shot and killed by police after his identity was mistaken for someone who had recently stolen a gun from a white couple’s car. A.C.’s story provides insight into police brutality, race relations in the 1960s and more.

Lesson Plans Based on the Podcast

In response to requests from teachers, parents, and students, WABE has partnered with the Georgia Department of Education to develop 8th grade Social Studies and High School U.S. History lesson plans written for teachers, by teachers. These robust plans offer students a fresh way of learning history. The lesson plans received the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Award.

The plans are aligned to Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies as well as the national College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies. They include teacher directions, handouts, source material and instructional strategies. They can be used in sequence or as modular activities to address several themes explored in schools, including voting rights, the 1946 governor’s race, U.S. International and domestic policy and more.

This packet includes an overview of the season one lesson plans for 8th grade Social Studies (p. 2) and High School U.S. History (p. 3), followed by the season two lesson plans for 8th grade Social Studies (p. 4) and High School U.S. History (p. 5).
OVERVIEW OF THE 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON PLANS – Season 1

Three lessons have a combined total of six openers, student activities, and closers. If done in succession, this plan may take three days to complete.

Questions Addressed:

• Who has the power?
• Why is it important to use different types of sources to explore a historical topic?
• Why was it so important that African Americans/Blacks exercise their voting rights during the 1900s?
• Why did so many southern whites want to limit the voting rights of African Americans/Blacks during the 1900s?

Goals

• Describe the relationship between the end of the white primary and the 1946 governor’s race.
• Analyze how rights were denied to African Americans through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence; including the 1906 Atlanta Riot.

Activities

• Introduction to Buried Truths (p. 3) – Students will discuss components and utility of podcasts, then work collaboratively to respond to a Buried Truths episode chosen by the teacher.
• Dying to Vote (p. 10) – In three rotating groups, students will utilize a clip from Buried Truths to understand the White Primary, use key vocabulary in the proper context, and interpret primary sources in the following categories: disenfranchisement, maintaining social order, and racial violence.
• Keeping the Power (p. 39) – After listening to Bonus: The Three Governors Controversy, students explore how the 1946 governor’s race led to the Three Governors Controversy between Herman Talmadge, Melvin E. Thompson, and Ellis Arnall. Students then discuss the usefulness of the Electoral College.

Download the complete 8th grade Social Studies lesson plans for Season 1 here
OVERVIEW OF THE HIGH SCHOOL U.S. HISTORY LESSON PLANS – Season 1

Four lessons have a combined total of twelve openers, work sessions, and summarizers. If done in succession, this plan may take four days to complete.

**Question Addressed:**

- To what lengths will people go to exercise their civil rights?

**Goals**

- Connect major domestic issues to their social effects including the G.I. Bill, Truman’s integration policies, McCarthyism, the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, and Brown v. Board of Education.
- Connect major domestic issues to their social effects including the passage of civil rights legislation and Johnson’s Great Society, following the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

**Activities**

- **Literacy Test (p. 3)** – Students will complete a Louisiana literacy test, listen to a clip from the first episode of *Buried Truths*, answer questions about the government’s involvement in the oppression of African Americans during the Jim Crow era, and summarize Truman’s Executive Order 9981.
- **Putting Things In Perspective (p. 11)** – Students will discover how there can be multiple perspectives of one event by working through a scenario where they are a principal who found out that there was a fight in the lunchroom. Students must use objectivity to find out the truth.
- **Get the Picture? (p. 16)** – Teachers will split students into groups and give each group a quadrant of a photo. The students have to make inferences based on what is visible in their quadrant. Students will then rank the top 10 most impactful civil rights developments and justify their ranking.
- **Objective Perspective (p. 33)** – Students will read an excerpt of *Black Like Me* – a story of a white man experiencing life as a black man in the Jim Crow South – and compare that experience to those of people mentioned in *Buried Truths*. Students will then use a graphic organizer to explore how the events in *Buried Truths* would be interpreted from the perspective of an inanimate object (e.g. Isaiah Nixon’s house, Dover Carter’s car, etc.).

[Download the complete High School U.S. History lesson plans for Season 1 here](#)
OVERVIEW OF THE 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON PLANS – Season 2

Three lessons have a combined total of seventeen warm-ups, instructional inquiry activities, and closers. If done in succession, this plan may take three to five days to complete.

Questions Addressed:

• Why are truths buried?
• How did politics, public discourse, and social reaction lead to divisions in Georgia during the civil rights era?
• How did key African Americans/Blacks influence social, political, and economic change during the civil rights era that may have influenced this case?

Goal:

• Analyze how rights were denied to African Americans/Blacks through Jim Crow laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, disenfranchisement, and racial violence including the 1906 Atlanta Riot.

Activities:

• Vocabulary Rating Sheet (7) – Students will self-assess their knowledge on the themes of the lesson (e.g. grand jury, indictment, Plessy v. Ferguson, etc.)
• Vocabulary Inquiry K.I.M. Graphic Organizer (p. 9) – Students will use select Buried Truths clips to complete a K.I.M. graphic organizer.
• Quickwrite (p. 14) – Based on their research, students take terms from a word bank and write as much as they can about each word.
• Introducing A.C. Hall (p. 16) – Students will see images of A.C. Hall while the teacher shares how his story is significant to the civil rights movement. Students then listen to a clip from Buried Truths season 2, episode 1.
• Jigsaw (p. 19) – Students, in teams, will analyze various primary source material to discover the significance of A.C. Hall’s story in history.

Download the complete 8th grade lesson plans for Season 2 here
OVERVIEW OF THE HIGH SCHOOL U.S. HISTORY LESSON PLANS – Season 2

Three lessons have a combined total of eleven openers, instructional activities, and homework. If done in succession, this plan may take four days to complete.

Questions Addressed:

• How do events from the Civil Rights Era continue to affect the relationship between minorities and police?
• How did the context of the Jim Crow era impact the cultural conflict in the south regarding segregation in 1962?
• How can racial conditioning and the “other race effect” impact legal proceedings?
• How do federal, constitutional constructs affect procedures carried out in state level legal proceedings?

Goals:

• Explain the key features of the Constitution, including the Great Compromise, limited government, and the Three-Fifths Compromise.
• Explain how objections to the Constitution’s ratification were addressed in the Bill of Rights.
• Explain the Black Codes, the Ku Klux Klan, and other forms of resistance to racial equality during Reconstruction.
• Describe the significance of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments.
• Connect the decision of Plessy v. Ferguson to the expansion of Jim Crow laws and the formation of the NAACP.
• Connect major domestic issues to their social effects including the G.I. Bill, Truman's integration policies, McCarthyism, the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, and Brown v. Board of Education.
• Connect major domestic issues to their social effects including the passage of civil rights legislation and Johnson's Great Society, following the assassination of John F. Kennedy.
• Describe the impact of television on American culture, including the 1960 presidential debates, the Civil Rights Movement, the moon landing, and the war in Vietnam.
• Investigate the growth, influence, and tactics of civil rights groups, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Letter from Birmingham Jail, the "I Have a Dream" Speech, and Cesar Chavez.

Activities:

• Listening Guide (p. 4) – As students listen to Buried Truths, they will use the guide to track significant events and prevalent themes in the A.C. Hall story.
• The Context of the Civil Rights Movement in 1962 (p. 12) – Students will watch a clip of the 1962 Macon Bus Boycott. Students will compare the boycott in Macon to that in Montgomery. Then students will read a political cartoon and analyze the cartoonist’s reaction to Governor Earnest Vandiver’s State of the State address in 1960.
• Structured Academic Controversy (SAC) (p. 22) – In groups of four, students will have structured debates on whether or not A.C. Hall’s death was a murder or self-defense.

Download the complete High School U.S. History lesson plans for Season 2 here