

## National Museum of African American History Worksheet

### *Discussion Questions: Group A*

1. If you were the curator for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, what four artifacts would you include and why?
2. In Washington D.C. there is now a National Museum of the American Indian and National Museum of Women in the Arts (among others). As we heard in the radio story, there will soon be a National Museum of African American History. Why were these specialized museums built? Do you agree or disagree with that purpose? What does this reason say about the purpose (and exhibits) in the other museums, like the Museum of American History?

### *Discussion Questions: Group B*

1. What does it mean to be an American?
2. The museum curator states that the shackles from the slave trade are sacred objects. What did he mean? How did you react to that? Explain your answer.

### *Discussion Questions: Group C*

1. How do you believe many White Americans would react to a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture? Explain your answer.
2. The curator is quoted as saying: "This is not a Black story. This is my story. This is the American story." Do you agree or disagree? Do you think most Americans will agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

### *Discussion Questions: Group D*

1. The interviewer asks whether Obama's election negates the need for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Why did she ask that question? Do you agree or disagree with the curator's answer? Explain your answer.
2. White people often feel guilt about racism against African Americans and/or about slavery. Do you think they feel guilt about other acts in U.S. history, such as the internment of Japanese Americans in WWII or the failure to allow refugees from the Holocaust into the United States (even after Americans knew about Nazi atrocities)? Explain your answer.