



# NASHVILLE

## SITES

## Lesson Plan for Tennessee State University Tour

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Tennessee State University

This lesson plan was funded by the Mellon Partners for Humanities Collaboration. Partners include Tennessee State, Fisk, and Vanderbilt Universities.

**Grade Level:** 4-8

**Standards:**

5.50: Identify Tennessee's significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, including

- Highlander Folk School
- Tent City Movement of Fayette County
- Nashville Sit-Ins
- The Clinton Twelve

AAH. 48 Compare and contrast the responses of African Americans to the economic, social, and political challenges in the contemporary U.S

AAH.52 Identify the major contributions of contemporary African Americans in business, education, the arts, politics, sports, science, technology, and society in general, including those of:

- President Barack Obama
- Tina Turner
- Condoleezza Rice
- Oprah Winfrey
- Wilma Rudolph

AAH.42 Summarize the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee, including: the integration of Clinton High School, sit-ins in Nashville, and the activities of Diane Nash and Jim Lawson

You can also find many ELA standards used:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/academic-standards/english-language-arts-standards.html>

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to explain Tennessee State University's role in the Nashville Movement and identify key figures.

2. Students will be able to identify influential Tennessee State University alumni and their achievements.
3. Students will be able to identify important figures that contributed to the development of Tennessee State University buildings.
4. Students will be able to define and explain land-grant universities.

### **Essential Questions:**

1. Can you explain the evolution of the school's name from 1912 to the present?
2. How were Tennessee A&I students important to the Nashville Movement during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s?
3. Who are important figures in the story of Tennessee State University (architects, students, faculty, administrators, etc.)?
4. What is a land-grant university and why are they important to African American history and the history of higher education?

### **Materials:**

Web and internet access (<http://nashvillesites.org>)

Smart phones for in-person walking tours

Laptop, tablet, desktop for virtual tours

Earbuds (optional)

### **Additional resources:**

Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)

<https://www.pbs.org/video/aint-scared-of-your-jails-1960-1961-sktghc/>

SNCC: Nashville Student Movement

<https://snccdigital.org/inside-sncc/establishing-sncc/campus-affiliates/nashville-student-movement/>

Tennessee State University: Distinguished Tigers

<https://www.tnstate.edu/alumni/distinguishedtigers.aspx>

Land Grant and Universities

<https://www.1890foundation.org/history-of-land-grant-universities>

TSU Athletics Virtual Tour - 2020

<https://youtu.be/jP0q4vm9EOY>

### **Lesson Plan:**

To access the tour via Nashville Sites, go to <http://nashvillesites.org>. Scroll down and select "View All Tours." Select the tour from the alphabetized list. Read and accept the Terms of Use. Read and listen to the introduction.

Select "Take Tour" for in-person walking tour (and when prompted allow Nashville Sites to access your location to turn on GPS mapping directions). Select "Take Tour Virtually" to take the tour from your home or classroom.

**Before lesson planning, check out the Teacher Tips** at the end of the document as you adapt the lesson and tour to best meet your class's needs.

## **Before the tour:**

Vocabulary: HBCU, PWI, Civil Rights Movement, racial integration, graduate school, undergraduate, architecture, agriculture, land-grant college

Engage the student: In groups discuss any prior knowledge they have of Historically Black Colleges and Universities? Do they already know of any major achievements or famous alumni of Tennessee State University?

You can also have students watch Vice President Kamala Harris speak to the TSU Class of 2022 and connect it to her own experience at Howard University (HBCU in Washington DC). If you have limited time, you can start the video around 12:15.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=z83r3MXcWBE>

**A Note:** This tour has more stops than many other Nashville Sites tours. As such, we would encourage you to combine or select specific stops to emphasize prominent themes in the tour. These themes are the establishment of land-grant colleges, campus life, the Nashville Civil Rights Movement, and TSU athletics.

## **During the Tour**

### **Stop 1: Kean Hall**

Watch this video of Diane Nash and Mayor Ben West discussing the Silent March to the Capitol after the bombing of Z. Alexander Looby's home: <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/civil-rights-act/multimedia/nashville-city-hall-confrontation.html>

Have a class discussion about the video by asking students the following questions:

- Why did the students and neighborhood march to the Capitol?
- How did Mayor West answer Diane Nash and the thousands of marchers at the Capitol? What was his reasoning for that answer?
- Do you think Diane Nash was brave for confronting the mayor? Explain.
- Based on this stop, explain how the bombing of Z. Alexander Looby's house was a catalyst for desegregation in Nashville?

### **Stop 2: Floyd-Payne Campus Center and Bell Tower**

Watch the video below to better understand the Morrill Act and Land Grant Colleges. What is a land grant college? Then, read TSU's motto: Think. Work. Serve. How did being a land grant college affect TSU's motto? Do you think it had an influence on the words chosen?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsJhSMqg2GM&>

Create a motto or logo for yourself, and write a short paragraph explaining it. Why is creating a "brand" for yourself important?

### **Stop 3: Brown-Daniel Library**

In two groups create a poster highlighting the lives of Martha Brown and Lois H. Daniel. How did they influence on TSU's library services, and why is having a university library important?

#### Stop 4: Clay Hall

Read the Tennessee Encyclopedia article on Robert E. Clay:

<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/robert-e-clay/>

Create a timeline of Robert Clay's life, including important dates from the stop. Answer the question: How did Clay impact education for Black Americans in Tennessee?

#### Stop 5: Strange Performing Arts Center

Just for Fun, watch a halftime from Tennessee State's Aristocrat of

Bands: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD5LmFvWBp4>

What stands out to you in this performance? Why do you think they are called the Aristocrat of Bands? Why do you think they are so important to TSU's campus?

#### Stop 6: Hale Hall, Rudolph Hall, and Torrence Hall

Let's learn about the inspiring story of Wilma Rudolph as a track athlete, Olympian, and Civil Rights activist. In 1960, after winning the gold medal in the 100-meter race, Rudolph was dubbed the "Fastest Woman in the World." She was the first American woman to win three gold medals at the same Olympic Games. When she came home, she demanded that the parade intended to honor her was desegregated.

Read a short article from the Natl. Women's History Museum with her biography:

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/wilma-rudolph>

Now let's analyze primary sources! Explore this online exhibit about women's sports, which includes a program for the parade honoring Wilma Rudolph in Clarksville, Tennessee. Have a class discussion about the landmark moments in women's sports.

<https://womenshistory.si.edu/herstory/sports>

How did Wilma affect women's sports and civil rights? How have women's sports changed or not changed since the 1960s (and after passage of Title IX in 1972)?

#### Stop 7: Boswell Science Complex and Black Greek Letter Organizations

Watch NBC news clip that introduces Black Greek-Letter Organizations, also known as the "[Divine Nine](#)." Google the following to learn more or click on linked names.

<a href="#">Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority</a>
<a href="#">Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity</a>	<a href="#">Delta Sigma Theta Sorority</a>
<a href="#">Omega Psi Phi Fraternity</a>	<a href="#">Zeta Phi Beta Sorority</a>
<a href="#">Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity</a>	<a href="#">Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority</a>
<a href="#">Iota Phi Theta Fraternity</a>	

Which fraternity or sorority would you join based on visiting their webpages? List your top three choices and be able to explain your preferences.

**Stop 8: Holland Hall, Crouch Hall, and Mirrored Lakes****Stop 9: Research and Sponsored Programs Building****Stop 10: Elliot Hall, Women's Building, and Van Gordon Art Gallery**

These stops are combined, but feel free to create activities based on the tour narrative. Here are some possible questions for discussion as you walk.

How, why was Mirrored Lakes important to the Black community at the height of racial segregation. Why do you think having a recreation space for TSU students is important?

What type of art do your students like? Painting, drawing, clay, textiles? Read this short biography of the artist, cartographer (maps), and faculty member Hiram Van Gordon: <https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=conference-on-african-american-history-and-culture>

Plan a trip to visit the Van Gordon Art Gallery, which showcases several exhibits a year featuring TSU students, local artists, and traveling exhibits.

**Stop 11: Averitte Amphitheater, Love Building, and Davis Hall**

Stop and sit as a class at the Averitte Amphitheater to complete the following activities.

**Part I**

Along with being played daily at the Bell Tower, the alma mater is played at the start or end of many athletic events at TSU. It was written by Laura Averitte—the namesake for this amphitheater.

Does your school have an alma mater? If so, learn the song as a class and include your music teacher. If you don't have one, compose an alma mater for your school. Here are the lyrics for TSU's alma mater as inspiration, you can also watch TSU's famed marching band play the [Alma Mater & I'm So Glad](#) at the end of a football game.

In the land of golden sunshine  
By the Cumberland's fertile shore  
Stands a school for greater service  
One that we adore  
Alma Mater, how we love thee,  
Love they white and blue  
May we strive to meet they mandates  
With faith that's true.

—Laura M. Averitte

**Part II**

Walter S. Davis served as university president from 1943 to 1968, during which time Nashville experienced major social change as a result of the Civil Rights Movement. Write an essay that discusses TSU's role during this period. Be sure to include the 1960s Nashville Sit-ins and Easter Boycott.

Use the links provided along with individual research to help with the essay. You can also check out our Civil Rights Sit-Ins and Civil Rights Driving tours on Nashville Sites for information.

[Walter S. Davis](#)

[Nashville Sit-Ins \(1959-1961\)](#)

[Economic Withdrawal During the Nashville Sit-Ins](#)

### **Stop 12: Harned Hall and Politics**

This stop highlights the work of politicians, often white men, who showed continued support for Tennessee State University's development. How did the work of Jim Nance McCord, Frank G. Clement, and Ned McWherter impact TSU's fight for equal Federal Land Grant Funding?

Write a short biography of one of the governors listed and present to the class. Include: place of birth, years served, and important facts of their career.

[Gov. Jim Nance McCord - National Governors Association](#)

[Frank G. Clement - Tennessee Encyclopedia](#)

[Gov. Ned Ray McWherter - National Governors Association](#)

### **Stop 13: Goodwill Manor**

This historic building, called Goodwill Manor, was designed by the oldest, most renowned Black-owned architecture firm in the nation. Watch and read the following then discuss the questions below.

Interview of Cheryl McKissack about the history of McKissack & McKissack:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOib\\_KYwilQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOib_KYwilQ)

Nashville Public Library article about history of McKissack & McKissack:

<https://library.nashville.org/blog/2021/03/building-nashville-history-mckissack-mckissack-architecture-firm>

- Which building most stands out to you out of those discussed in the video clip or article?
- What are some of the elements of the building's style? Use this architecture glossary to help you identify features and terms:  
[www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/resources/dictionary.html](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/resources/dictionary.html)
- What is the purpose of the building? How does the building's function relate to the story that Cheryl McKissack told about her family, their business, and their current endeavors?

### **Stop 14: Hankal Hall and Queen Washington Building**

Preservation versus progress? Both Hankal Hall and the Queen Washington Building have had several renovations since their original construction. Discuss the various functions of each building over the years. What is the building's function today?

As a class debate whether the buildings should keep their namesake or change the name to reflect current use? What is the role of the university to preserve this history versus embracing progress and innovation?

### **Stop 15-17: Gentry Center, Olympic Plaza and Statue, Hale Stadium and Field House**

TSU has had many famous athletes pass through its campus including Wilma Rudolph, Ralph Boston, Richard Dent, Mae Faggs, Barbara Jones, Chandra Cheeseborough, and many more. Additionally, coaches Howard Gentry, Ed Temple, and John Merritt trained these athletes and made Tennessee State University an international name in sports.

Fun Fact: TSU athletes won a medal in every Olympic Games from 1952 to 1984—more than any other collegiate program.

#### **Part I**

Have students walk around the statue and choose a person to Google. Have students report out on each athlete's accomplishments.

#### **Part II**

Have students listen to relevant stops on our Women's Sports History tour:

<https://nashvillesites.org/tours/women's-sports-history>.

Ask your media specialist about purchasing the 40-minute documentary, Mr. Temple and The Tigerbelles (2018). More info at: <http://tigerbellesdocumentary.com/>.

#### **Part III**

The success of these athletes and coaches meant that they were representatives of HBCUs and some used this prestige to advocate for African American equality. Remember the story about Wilma Rudolph from Stop #6? How do sports today represent means of social activism or change?

### **Stop 18: College of Agriculture**

Have you ever considered a degree in agriculture? For a university located in an urban area, you may be surprised that TSU's College of Agriculture is one of its most successful programs. Here is a 4-minute video for you to watch to learn more: <https://youtu.be/t2hDA3iy2ME>

Choose a concentration that seems most interesting, explain the concentration that you chose, and why you chose it. What are 3 possible careers in agriculture you find interesting?

Agriculture is also TSU's most historic area of emphasis. As you learned on the tour, Tennessee State University began as a land grant college under the name Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial Normal School in 1912. For many years, the food served on campus was grown exclusively by students and staff.

#### **After the tour**

*Assessment #1 (summative):*

Pick three of your favorite stops from the tour and reflect on how they connect to the larger story of Tennessee State University. How do the different people or places connect with one another? How do they represent TSU mission, vision, and history? Why are these your favorite stops and what did they teach you about the history of HBCUs?

*Assessment #2 (analytical):*

Analyze the history and resurgence of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States? Why are HBCUs important in American history? Support your answer with evidence from the TSU tour.

### Assessment #3 (visual, chronological):

Create a promo poster that highlights the accomplishments and history of one of the following at TSU. Be creative and include history, notable people, important programs, and current status:

Fraternities or Sororities

College of Agriculture

Architecture on Campus

Athletic Program

### Alternative Assessment or Activities-

Post highlights or pictures of campus to social media (tag @NashvilleSites)

Create a board game of the campus highlighting the places and people on the tour

Conduct an interview with a student, staff member, or alumni

Create a trivia game, crossword puzzle, or Kahoot game

Design a poster board for a building or person on campus

Create an illustrated timeline

Role play important figures from the university as part of a "Living History" assignment

### Teacher Tips:

If you are unable to walk the tour before bringing a class or student group, here are some suggestions for you, the teacher:

1. Before your visit, you should reach out to Campus Security. Call (615) 963-5171. All visitors (including classes and students) must be approved before entering campus. Check in with security at the entrance near the stadium.
2. Visitor parking is available in the front of the campus across from the fighter jet, where the tour begins. Depending on the size of your vehicle/bus, other parking arrangements with the university may need to be made prior to arriving. Keep in mind that the university is busy during operation hours, so parking may be limited.
3. Although the tour is an hour and a half, for students it will most likely take longer, especially if you wish to enter some buildings. Be aware that classes are in progress! Please minimize the noise level of the students before entering.
4. There is so much to see, especially for a child/student that has not been to a college campus. Be sure to keep track of the students, or institute a buddy system as the campus may get very busy. It may be beneficial to take the virtual tour ahead of time before visiting the campus so that you can focus on your class's safety.
5. Students will be able to purchase food from one of the on-campus dining options. For a larger group, it is best to contact dining services for pricing to utilize the buffet style cafeteria. There are outdoor seating options available in the courtyard outside the Floyd-Payne Campus Center or the Averitte Amphitheater.
6. Bathrooms are available in every building for emergencies, but we suggest students use the Floyd-Payne Campus Center upon arrival or during a lunch/snack break.