

# AFRICAN AMERICAN ART

Axe ... : .....

Key problem : .....

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## Activity 1 : Anticipation

Doc. 1



*Abraham Lincoln » (Emancipation Group), 1876. Lincoln Park, Washington, DC. It was funded by the wages of freed slaves.*

Doc. 1 – The « Emancipation Memorial »

Boston officials have decided to remove the sculpture Emancipation Monument which has stood in Park Square since 1879. It depicts a formerly enslaved man kneeling before Abraham Lincoln.

*Jesse Costa/WBUR*



The original « *Emancipation memorial* » in Washington DC

Thomas Ball's « *Freedmen's Memorial to*

Doc. 2 - a quotation by Ekua HOLMES, an American artist

"Public art is storytelling at the street level. As such, the imagery should strike the heart and engage the mind," artist Ekua Holmes said. "...What I heard today is that it hurts to look at this piece, and in the Boston landscape we should not have works that bring shame to any groups of people, not only in Boston but across the entire United States."

1- Present the 2 documents (type, date, author, topic)

2- Describe the first document (say where it was taken, what it illustrates).

- 3- This sculpture was controversial. Explain why.
- 4- Comment on the quotation.
- 5- Exchange your impressions and reactions to both documents.
- 6- Which axis is it about ? Define the 2 main words and then, the link between both.

### **Activity 2 : Listening**

Listen to this video to complete the link between art and power :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wa1fyiKNcHw>