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Source Analysis 7

Video 1 Summary

Adkins Arboretum is a forest that is home to over 600 types of plants that are native to the Chesapeake region. This forest is home to trees that gave shelter, nourishment, and refuge to slaves who wanted freedom. Free and Enslaved black people shaped the land that is now Adkins Arboretum.

Video 2 Summary

Enslaved people were headed north to freedom. They would use the stars and the sun to navigate. They would usually travel at night and hide during the day. In cases where there were bad weather, they would use moss to help navigate. Moss can only grow in the correct conditions so you would feel the sides of the trees for moss. This would help you figure out where the sun had been shining.

Video 3 Summary

On the escape to the freedom, you would need places to hide, so you can use the environment. Commonly used hiding spots was tall grass, under fallen timber, or a hollowed tree. But these hiding spots did not always just provide cover, some were hazardous so it would be hard to follow if you were in pursuit.

Video 4 Summary

Slaves on the run often did not carry much, so they never knew when or what their next meal would be. They would often pass by nearby farm fields of potatoes or corn but would not leave the forest for safety. So, they would have to stick to food from the forest, whether it was hunting, fishing, or foraging. Moses Grandy spoke about his mother who was skilled at foraging, she would gather berries for her children to eat, and collect water from puddles and would have to strain it to get rid of any insects or tadpoles. There was also paw paw, persimmons, grapes, pine roots, and sassafras buds.

Video 5 Summary

While traveling it was important to not draw any attention to yourself. So you can use the forest and the wildlife in it to your advantage. The sound of rustling leaves or animals chirping could camouflage the noise of your movement. Harriet Tubman could imitate the hoot of an owl and would use this as communication. Andrew Jackson used what he learned from foxes to evade hounds that were chasing him. Foxes would run in circles or crisscross streams to confuse amd tire anyone chasing them, so Andrew Jackson copied this.

Analysis

I personally think that making a video series explaining everything that happened at Missouri botanical gardens would be very effective. I think if the video is well-made, it will keep someone’s attention way better than reading a plaque on a wall. I also think it would be cool to incorporate different plant/flower arrangements around the gardens telling the story of different enslaved people, I am not exactly what that would entail but it sounds cool in my head. In my head I keep picturing the scene of the hunger games where Katniss surrounded Rue in flowers after she was killed. I am thinking a sort of memorial for each one of Shaw’s enslaved people with pretty flowers and talking about their lives.