Celebrating the Mosaic: Sites of Historic and Cultural Significance for the Many People Who Have Called Cape Cod Home

A Virtual or Actual Scavenger Hunt for Learners of All Ages!

Game Goals:
1. Learn about the cultural diversity of people living on Cape Cod, from the comfort of home or by field trips to the places hinted at in our clues.
2. Have fun.

Helpful Hints: In most cases, we’ve included photos and written clues to help you identify the place or people. Every Cape Cod town is included at least once with 3 towns included 3 times with 3 different places.

Site # 1: Sitting close to the canal, this replica building is believed to be the area of some of the country’s earliest foreign commerce, as well as where the use of wampum as currency began.
Questions: What site, in what town is this? People from which nations were trading here? Bonus question (if you can visit the site): This area was called Aptucext, a Wampanoag word that meant what?
Site # 2: This plaque commemorates a Cape Cod abolitionist known as “The Man with the Branded Hand”. In which town is the plaque, what is the man’s name and why was he called, man with a branded hand?
Site # 3: Museum run by and dedicated to the People of the First Light. Can you identify what is seen in this photo? In what town and what museum is this? Bonus question (If you visit the site): What are some of the depictions of wildlife included on the multimedia work of art depicting the evolution of the town?

Site # 4: In this museum one can see the extraordinary roles and contributions of people of color spanning the eras of the slave trade, abolitionism, and more recently, the civil rights movement. In what town and what museum is this? What does the statue in the picture represent? Bonus question (if you visit the site): Name three local, contemporary artists whose works are displayed here.
Site # 5: Many BIPOC men and women have served in their country’s armed forces though their contributions are not widely acknowledged or recognized in our history books. On what bridge, spanning what river is this plaque dedicated to this Dennis Cape Verdean couple for their love of and service to their Cape town?
Site # 6: Frequently gifted tokens of love and respect for the woman and the tribe she represents, are found at what Cape hiking trail? Bonus question (if you visit the site): What are 3 or 4 items currently left there as tokens of tribute?

Site # 7: Named for the first instance of settlers taking for themselves what belonged to the Native people, describe who took what from who and how it influenced future encounters between the two groups. Why was it there?
Site # 8: People of color were often the backbone of the whaling and cranberry industries on the Cape. Which town historical society has an exhibit detailing the contributions of Cape Verdeans to the Cape’s early years of cranberry cultivation?

Site # 9: Tools were essential to the Native Americans and were hand crafted from natural materials such as bone for fish hooks and stone axes. Where is this boulder found and what was it used for? Bonus question (if you visit the site): What do the other National Park plaques teach us about this site?
Site # 10  Considered by many to be one of the greatest American authors of the twentieth century, who is the man depicted in this mural and where can it be seen on the Cape? In addition to being a very successful gay, Black author, he was a civil rights activist and excellent orator. Bonus question: This man famously debated a well known conservative and supporter of segregationist policies in 1965 and was widely considered the winner. Who did he debate and what was the debate title?
Site # 11 “Were there slaves in Brewster?” This exhibit can be found in which historical building in Brewster and what documents do they display to answer the question?

Were There Slaves in Brewster?

Yes.

The 1754 slave census for the town of Harwich, which until the 1803 separation included the area now known as Brewster, records eight male and six female slaves.

According to the Order of the General Court we the subscribers have taken an account of the number of the Negroes [sic] Slaves in the Town of Harwich (in 1754 this included Brewster) and find them to be Viz: Eight males and Six females

To the Honorable
Josiah Willard, Sec’ty
[signed] Barnaby Freeman
Jabez Snow
(Assessors of Harwich)

~ Massachusetts Archives

A 1755 will written by Thomas Clark, who lived near the grist mill on Stony Brook Road, deeded to his wife in a single sentence his “little slave Molly” and one of his horses:

...I also give unto my wife my little slave Molly and to have one horse pastured by my son Thomas Clark where he pastureth his own cows yearly...

~ Thomas Clark will, BHS Archives

On December 15, 1760 Benjamin Bangs, who lived across the street from First Parish Meeting House, recorded in his diary:

“I sold my Negro Oliver and very glad to get rid of him for thirty-nine pounds of lawful money to Eleazer Nickerson of Bass Ponds.” ~ Benjamin Bangs’s Diary, Mass. Historical Society

Below is the bill of sale that same year for another slave Bangs purchased for 26 pounds 13 shillings. The slave Sarah had contracted a form of tuberculosis called The King’s Evil, believed to be cured by the touch of royalty. Sarah was sold with a warranty of sorts — if the disease returned, Bangs’ money would be refunded:

Site # 11 Which town has a large Portuguese community whose influence can still be seen in the town’s bakeries and restaurants, and in the annual Portuguese Festival and Blessing of the Fleet? In what industry did the first Portuguese immigrants here work, and what decade did they begin arriving?
Site # 12  The Taylor-Bray Archeological Project in Yarmouth has found in addition to the cracked stone hearth pictured below, what other evidence of a Native American presence there? Bonus Question (if you visit the site): What was the name Native Americans used for this area how far back do archeologists believe there was a pre-colonial presence here?
This concentration of fire-cracked rock is the largest grouping found at the farm. It is even larger than the photo shows since parts of the hearth were left un-excavated for future archaeologists to examine when they might have access to new dating technologies. Given its unusual size, this collection of fire-cracked rock may have been used by Native peoples to roast big game like deer or to process large quantities of fish.
Site #14 This building is believed to be the oldest Native American church in eastern United States and oldest church of Cape Cod. What is its name and when was it built? Bonus Question (if you visit the site): What are the names of the Native American Preachers listed on the plaque?

Site #15 Many New England churches and individuals fervently opposed the institution of slavery in the decades leading up to the Civil War. Which church in which town was known as a
stronghold of abolitionists?  Bonus Question (if you visit): Who does the plaque on the front of the building welcome?
Site # 16 Where is this statue of a great Wampanoag sachem found and what is his name? Bonus Question (if you visit the site): What does the tribute below the statue say he did for the early European settlers?
Site # 17  Now, a lovely inn on a beautiful bay, this building dates back to 1798. According to the reporter Trevor Maxwell, of The Cape Cod Times, the small stone cellar concealed under a trap door in the Inn’s entrance foyer might have served as a hiding place for slaves traveling along the "Underground Railroad.” What town and building is pictured in this historic photo? Bonus Question: Can you identify other buildings on the Cape that are thought to have possibly been a stop on the Underground Railroad? Why might it be difficult to confirm their role as part of the Underground Railroad?

Site # 18 Another historic museum home houses an exhibit “Monomoyick Trail” and the trinket basket pictured below identified as made by Metacomet’s granddaughter. What museum is this at, in which town and most importantly, who was Metacomet?
Site # 19  Located in the town that is both the historic and current home to many members of the Wampanoag Tribe, this business carries cultural gifts and art by artists and artisans of Wampanoag and other native tribes. Where is it located? Bonus Question: from the website or a visit to the store, name at least three creatures of nature represented in the art or jewelry.

Site # 20  This botanist or anthophile delight also recognizes the land where it is located once belonged to the People of the First Light. In what town and attraction is this wetu located?