

*A modern city, full of history: worksheet n°3*

**Archeological and architectural traces of the past**

**Source 1: The African Burial Ground**

From about the 1690s until 1794, both free and enslaved Africans were buried in a 6.6-acre burial ground in Lower Manhattan, outside the boundaries of the settlement of New Amsterdam, later known as New York. Lost to history due to landfill and development, the grounds were rediscovered in 1991 as a consequence of the planned construction of a Federal office building.

*From National Park service website*

African Burial Ground National Monument at Duane Street and African Burial Ground Way (Elk Street) in Lower Manhattan (New York City) preserves a site containing the remains of more than 400 Africans buried during the late 17th and 18th centuries. Historians estimate there may have been 15,000-20,000 burials in what was the largest colonial-era cemetery for enslaved African people. The site's excavation and study was called "the most important historic urban archeological project in the United States."

The discovery highlighted the forgotten history of African slaves in colonial and federal New York City, who were integral to its development. By the American Revolutionary War, they constituted nearly a quarter of the population in the city, which had the second largest number of slaves in the nation after Charleston, South Carolina. Scholars and African-American civic activists joined to publicize the importance of the site and lobby for its preservation. In 1993 the site was designated a National Historic Landmark and in 2006 a National Monument.

In 2003 Congress appropriated funds for a memorial at the site and directed redesign of the federal building to allow for this. A design competition attracted more than 60 proposals for a design. The memorial was dedicated in 2007 to commemorate the role of Africans and African Americans in colonial and federal New York City, and in United States history. A visitor center opened in 2010 to provide interpretation of the site and African-American history in New York.

*From Wikipedia*

**Source 2 : The African Burial Ground Memorial**



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**Source 3: The oldest building in New York City**

What is the oldest building in New York City? video,

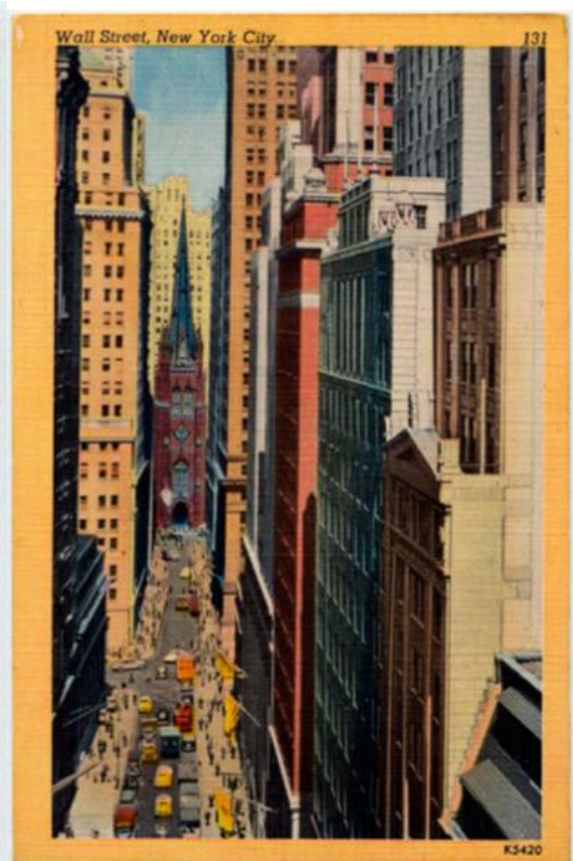
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WuCtc18BtM>



**Source 4: Views of Wall Street looking west towards Trinity Church**

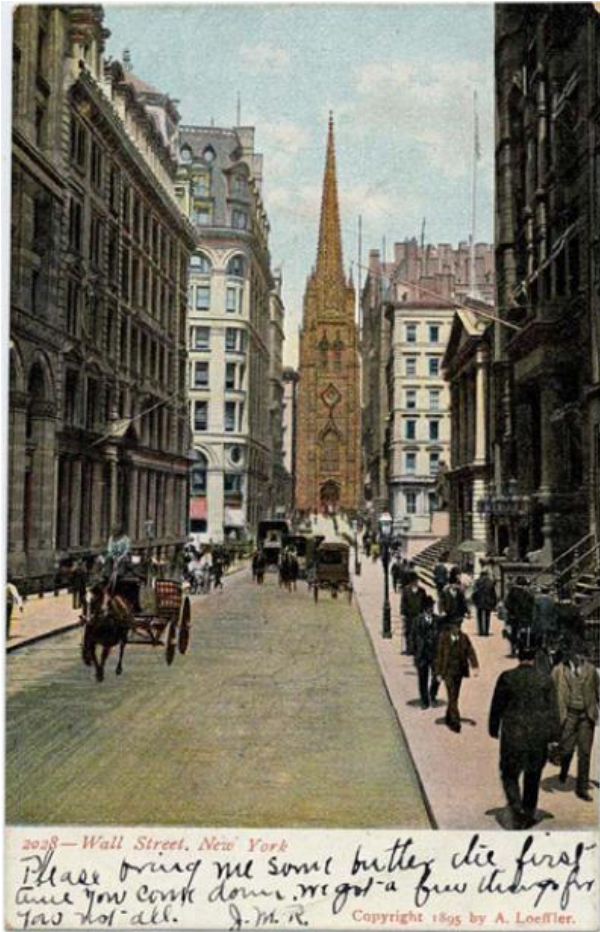
a)

b)



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c)



d)



1895/1909/1940/2007

**Tasks**

- 1) What is the African Burial Ground? Explain what it tells of the history of New York City?
- 2) How was the African Burial Ground discovered? Why and how has it been preserved?
- 3) What is the oldest building in New York City? When was it built? What has happened to the building since?
- 4) Match the views of Wall Street with the following dates: 1895/1909/1940/2007. Explain your choice.
- 5) Use worksheet n°1 to find the origin of the name "Wall Street".
- 6) Describe the changes of Wall Street over time. When did the changes particularly take place?
- 7) What has remained from the late 19<sup>th</sup> c.? What can explain that some buildings have remained while others have been replaced?

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