The Clinton 12: Site Visit Activities

When students arrive at the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, they will receive clipboards with questions that will help to guide their visit to the museum. These same questions may also be answered or expanded by watching the Clinton 12 DVD.

Essential Questions for students:

1. What are civil rights and what happens when individuals are denied civil rights?

2. Why and how did the Clinton 12 work for social justice?

3. What were the challenges faced by the Clinton 12 and what were the strategies for overcoming these challenges?

4. How do diversity and interdependence have an impact on the way that individuals and societies work together?

5. Is equality for all possible in a democracy?

Chalk Talk

At the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, students will first sit in desks and watch a short presentation of the Clinton 12 story. They will then walk through the exhibits and answer the following questions.
Exhibits

Prelude: The Green McAdoo School

1. What does the photograph tell you about the Green McAdoo School?
   ________________________________________________________________

2. When was the first African American school built in Clinton?______ Who built it?___________________________ What happened to it?_____________________________________

3. When was the present Green McAdoo School built?___________

4. What kind of project was it?_____________________________________

5. Who designed the present Green McAdoo School?_______________________

6. What was the Green McAdoo’s first name?______________________________

7. When was it renamed?______________________________________________

8. For whom was it renamed?___________________________________________

9. What grades did the Green McAdoo serve?________________________________

10. Who do you think the man in the photograph is?__________________________

Exhibit 1: White Citizens Councils and the NAACP

1. What was the purpose of the NAACP and when was it founded?___________________________________________________________
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2. What was the purpose of the White Citizens Councils?___________________________________________________________
   __________

3. What did the “Crime Report Reveals Menace of Integration” suggest?_____________________________________________________
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4. Who was John Kasper and what role did he play in the Clinton 12 story?_____________________________________________________
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5. Who as Ezra Pound and what was his influence on John Kasper?___________________________________________________________
   __________
6. What was the Red Scare of the 1950s? Was it real?

________________________________________________________________________

7. What was the claim that there was a connection between communism and integration? Why was this particularly a powerful claim during the 1950s?

________________________________________________________________________

8. What was the term “mongrelization” and how was it used as propaganda?

________________________________________________________________________

9. Who was Joan Fontaine and what was the “scandal” that was related to her?

________________________________________________________________________

10. What did the “kiss of death” mean?

________________________________________________________________________

11. What was the claim of the “Mixed Schools, Mixed Blood” pamphlet, published in 1956?

________________________________________________________________________

Exhibit 2: Kasper Comes to Clinton: White Citizens’ Council

12. Who was Asa Carter?

What well-known book did he write? Have you read it?

________________________________________________________________________

13. Why did John Kasper serve time in federal prison?

________________________________________________________________________
14. How long did Kasper serve in prison? 

15. What is ironic about Kasper’s role in the Clinton 12 story and his earlier activities with the black community? 

16. How and when did Kasper cause trouble in Clinton in 1956? 

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**Exhibit 3: The First 3 Days: Sanctuary Inside the School**

17. What was the atmosphere like inside Clinton High School during the first days of desegregation? 

18. How did the local newspapers describe the first days of Clinton desegregation? 

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**Exhibit 4: Backlash, Violence in the Community**

19. To what extent and why did the local resistance to the desegregation of Clinton High School grow? 

20. What was the experience of the Clinton 12 during this time period of community violence? 

21. Who was the principal of Clinton High School and what was his reaction during the crisis? 

22. What is your reaction to the photograph of the car surrounded by the mob? 

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23. What was Mt. Sinai Baptist Church and how was it a sanctuary to the African American community during this time?

24. How did the African American men, women, and children respond?

25. What was the theme of the prayer of the Knoxville Ministerial Association regarding the Clinton crisis?

26. What does the photograph of the burning cross represent?

Exhibit 5: Deputizing the Home Guard

27. What was the role of the Clinton Home Guard?

28. Summarize the activities of September 1, 1956.

Exhibit 6: National Guard Moves In

29. What was the role of the National Guard and when did it arrive in Clinton?

30. Who was James Chandler and what was his experience during the Clinton crisis?

31. What does the letter to Governor Clement tell you about how people reacted to his role in the Clinton
Exhibit 7: School Goes On

32. How would you describe the attitudes of the Clinton 12 in the large photograph of them?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

33. How do you think that you would react in a similar situation?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

34. What is a U.S. Marshall? What did U.S. Marshall Frank Quarles read on the school steps?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

35. What did Bobby Cain say that helped him during this time?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Exhibit 8: Student Support

36. What was the reaction of most of the white students at Clinton High School?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

37. How was Jerry Shattuck a leader among the white students?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

38. What was the response of the white students to Principal Brittain?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

39. Why did the Student Council petition the Anderson County Board of Education in early December 1956?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Exhibit 9: Clinton Collage

40. What was the impact of the Formation of Youth’s White Citizens’ Council?__________________________________________________________

41. What was the intent of the meeting of the parents of the Clinton 12 in late November 1956?__________________________________________________________

42. How was Kasper’s acquittal a catalyst?__________________________________________________________

43. What was the impact of the bombings and shootings?__________________________________________________________

44. Did the White Citizens’ Council boycott of local business have an impact on the Clinton’s economy?__________________________________________________________

45. Why did the Anderson County School Board request help from the U.S. Attorney General?__________________________________________________________

Exhibit 10: No Color Line at the Cross

46. Who was the Rev. Paul Turner and what was his role in the Clinton 12 story?__________________________________________________________

47. When and why did Clinton High School shut down?__________________________________________________________

48. What was the role of the Clinton churches in the desegregation crisis?__________________________________________________________
49. Why were 15 Clinton citizens and Kasper arrested?

50. What was the outcome of the White Citizens Council candidates for local office during the December 4, 1956 election?

51. What did the Rev. Paul Turner mean by his comment that there was “No Color Line at the Cross”?

52. Looking at the Mailbox, what were some of the reactions to the Rev. Turner’s participation with the Clinton 12?

53. When was Clinton High School bombed? Did the authorities find out who bombed the school?

54. Where did Clinton High School students go to school following the bombing?

55. What was the reaction of the Clinton community following the bombing?

56. What newspapers carried the headlines of the bombing of Clinton High School?

Exhibit 11: Bombing of Clinton High School

53. When was Clinton High School bombed? Did the authorities find out who bombed the school?

54. Where did Clinton High School students go to school following the bombing?

55. What was the reaction of the Clinton community following the bombing?

56. What newspapers carried the headlines of the bombing of Clinton High School?
Film Room

Read the exhibits and write a brief description of the roles played by these key participants in the Clinton 12 story.

- Dr. D. J. Brittain
- Horace V. Wells, Jr.
- Leo Burnett and Sidney Davis
- The Rev. Paul Turner
- Governor Frank Clement
- Maurice Soles
- Alfred Williams

Hear the Voices and Read the Stories of the Clinton 12

By listening and watching their interviews as well as reading the biographical information on the wall panels, briefly describe the experiences of the Clinton 12.
• Gail Ann Epps  
  Upton__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Ronald Gordon “Poochie”  
  Hayden__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Robert  
  Thacker__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Jo Ann Crozier Allen  
  Boyce__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Bobby  
  Cain__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  William  
  Latham__________________________________________

• Minnie Ann Dickey  
  Jones__________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  Regina Turner  
  Smith__________________________________________

• Ann Theresser  
  Caswell__________________________________________

• Alvah J. McSwain  
  Lambert__________________________________________

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**Final Reflections at the Museum:**

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