

1067-11-22

Esther M Pearson* (epearson@lase11.edu), PO Box 1122, Groton, MA 01450. *“Making the Connection: Ethnic and Cultural Effects of Mathematics”*.

This presentation examines chronological periods in history and how African Americans affected and were affected by mathematics. The African American experience from slavery through the Information Age is examined. Evidence within each period details how mathematics has profoundly affected the progress of African Americans. From their position as slaves to the representation of African Americans as 3/5th a human; to their liberation, right to read, right to vote, and right to fight in the armed services. From their migration from the south to the north, from inner city to suburbia, from blue collar labor to white collar, from business employee to business owner. This talk brings into perspective the need for African Americans to embrace mathematics as never before so that academic, social, and economic gains can be maintained and advanced in America. Why then, has mathematics not been held closely or embraced like a friend to those of African descent? (Received May 20, 2010)