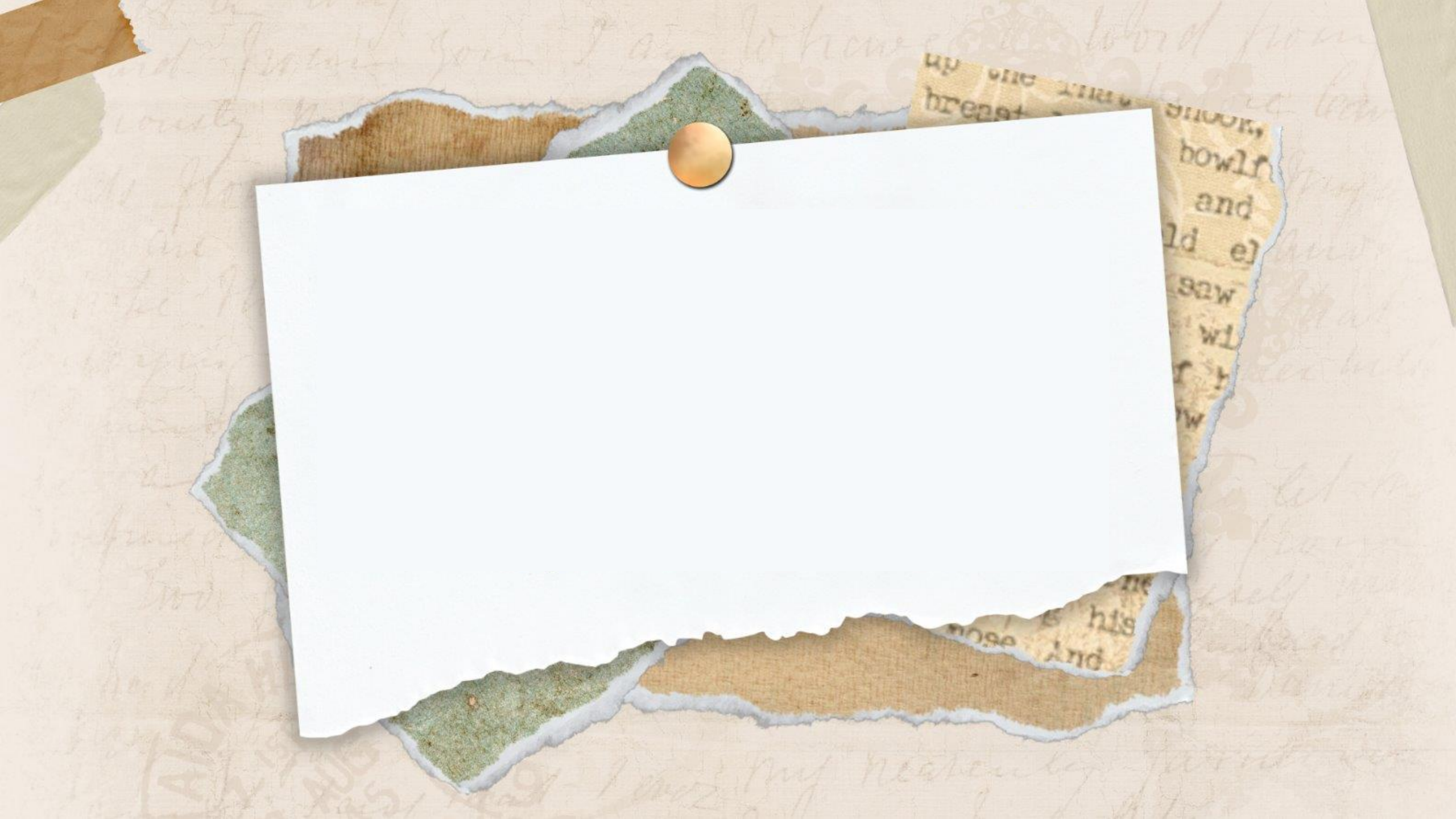


History of the Soil:

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

HOW OUR PROJECT WAS CONCEPTUALIZED

- ***Tasked*** with the project.
- ***Focus***: History of enslavement at the Garden.
- Many ideas ***brainstormed.***
- ***Our idea:*** an interactive and engaging format.
- Prioritized ***patron involvement and reflection***.
- Chose ***scavenger hunt*** as final concept.
- Combines ***learning*** with ***exploration***.
- Encourages ***connection*** to the Garden and history.





THE HURDLES AND HOW THEY HELPED US GROW.

- Faced significant ***logistical issues*** in organizing the project.
- Overwhelmed by a ***large volume*** of documents.
- Lacked clear information on the ***connection*** between enslaved people and the garden
- Encountered numerous unanswered questions, leading to a s***ense of being trapped*** without direction.

What does our project consist of?

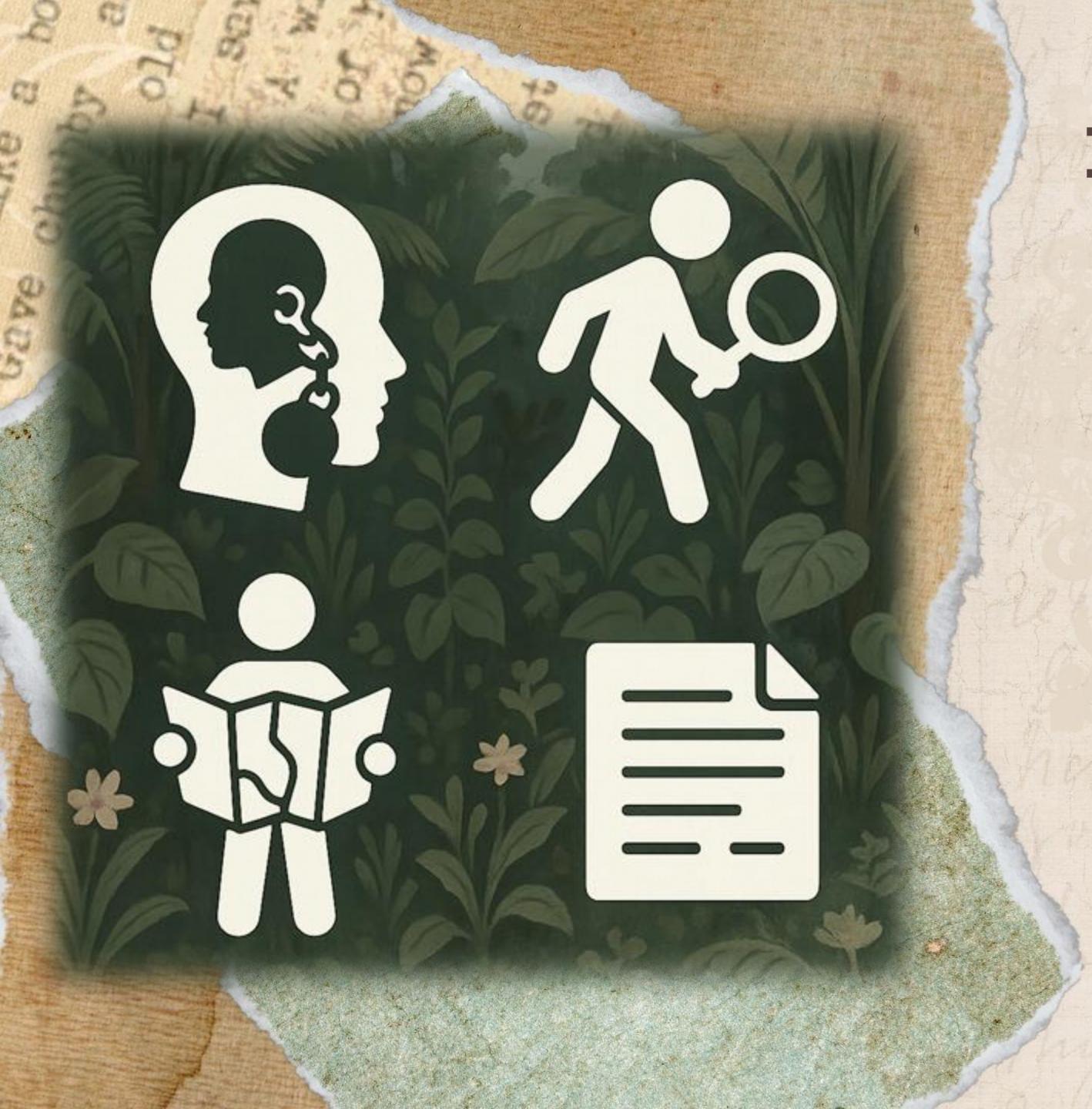
This scavenger hunt is an interactive educational experience combining a scavenger hunt with QR codes at various stations that will have the full version of the document presented. This activity allows participants to explore key historical sites and documents related to slavery, helping participants to understand and engage with this crucial topic.

Why this project?

Studies in the Journal of Educational Technology & Society and similar journals show that interactive learning methods, like scavenger hunts, are more effective at engaging learners and boosting retention up to 75%, compared to just 10% with passive methods like lectures.

Points of Interest We Will Be Covering:

- Purchase of slaves by Henry Shaw
- Journal Entries and Letters Related to Slavery
- Freedom and Escape
- Treatment of Slaves



MISSION AND VISION

Promote Understanding:

Increase understanding of enslavement history at MOBOT

Encourage Participation:

Use an engaging scavenger hunt format to attract diverse audiences.

Provide Access:

Ensure the availability of historical documents during and after the event.

Target Audience

EVERYONE IS WELCOME and we are committed to provide accessible stations for people with disabilities that participate.

Local Community Members: Residents interested in local history and culture.

School Groups: Educational organizations seeking engaging field trip activities.

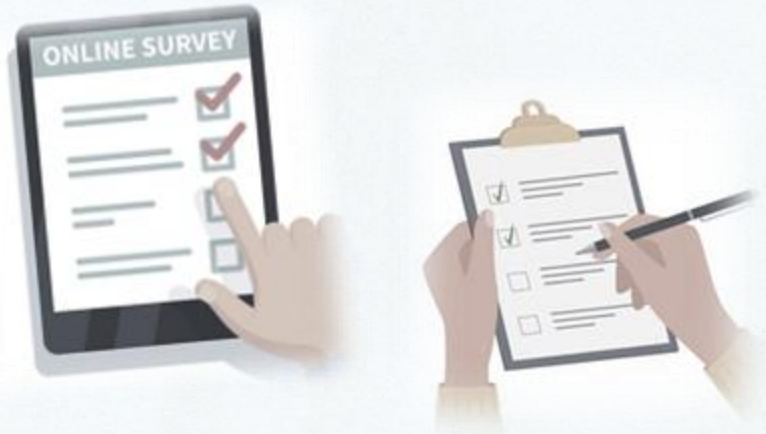
Historians and Researchers: Scholars looking for resources related to slavery history.

Visitors to the Area: Tourists interested in local historical sites.

Scavenger Hunt Structure

Answer Sheet:

This will be where the answers to the interactive challenges at each station will have to be recorded.



Scavenger Hunt Structure

Interactive Challenges:

At each station, participants will be able to look at a short version of the full document and respond to a short question related to it to receive points. Responses will be recorded by the participant on a digital or physical answer sheet provided at the start.



Scavenger Hunt Structure

Prices or incentives:

Participants that complete the route and get higher than 80% score on the questions, will receive a digital certificate of completion.



Purchases of slaves By Henry Shaw

This document is a bill of sale dated 1838, documenting the purchase of an enslaved woman named Bridgette by Henry Shaw.

Bridgette was 18 years old at the time and came from Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. She was one of several individuals enslaved by Henry Shaw. Historical records indicate that during her time working under Shaw, she was paid one dollar per week for her labor.

Journal Entrée/Letter Related to Slavery

Newspaper article.

This document details the capture and arrest of Mary Meachum and a group of enslaved individuals during their attempted crossing of the Mississippi River into Illinois on May 21, 1855, in an effort to reach freedom.

Freedom and Escape

Record of manumission of a female enslaved person.

On April 24, 1839, Shaw granted her freedom through a legal process known as manumission—the formal act of releasing an enslaved person from bondage.

Both the bill of sale recording her purchase and the manumission document are preserved in the Henry Shaw Papers at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Treatment of Enslaved People

Receipt of doctor visit, Dr. Vitalis.

It details the medical care provided by Dr. Vitalis to an enslaved woman named Bridgette and her young mixed-race son, during the absence of their enslaver, Henry Shaw.

Dr. Vitalis addressed the account directly to Shaw, outlining the care administered.

The receipt is in French and dated September 17, 1842.


MISSOURI BOTANIC
BOTANICAL GARDEN
1
DOCUMENT TYPE
Question related to the document?