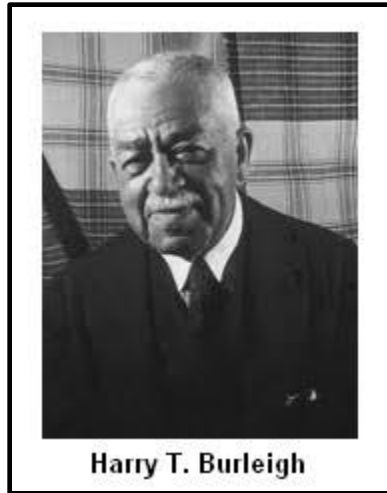




## Teaching Tips for Burleigh's Elementary Curriculum



### Prompts:

1. Who do you know that is a famous American from Erie, PA?
  - Wait for answer: If Burleigh's name was not mentioned.
2. Do you think that there are famous African Americans from Erie?
  - Wait for answers, be they "yes" or "no"
3. Introduce to them the name of Harry T. Burleigh
  - Show pictures and a brief synopsis of his life
4. Since Burleigh was born in 1866 (after the Civil War), what do you think his childhood was like growing up in Erie? Do you think it was like yours? If not, why?
  - Wait for answer? Follow-up, "what opportunities do you think were available for African Americans in Erie during Burleigh's childhood".
5. Burleigh became interested in music when he accompanied his grandfather on his job as lamplighter and heard him sing songs that were called "slave songs".
  - What do you think a lamplighter was?
  - What do you think "slave songs" were?
6. Burleigh left Erie in 1892 at the age of 26 to attend the National Conservatory of Music in New York where he studied under the composer Antonín Dvořák.
  - What do you think life was like in 1892 for an African American?

- Burleigh became a soloist at St. George Episcopal Church in New York City, a predominately white church.
  - Discuss some of the issues that may have surfaced among the parishioners. Are those issues still present today?
7. Burleigh became an internationally known singer, composer, and publisher and contributed to the genre of music. His most famous contribution was the composition of “slave songs” now made available to all which now was labeled “Negro Spirituals”.
    - Play a recording of one of Burleigh’s Spirituals, discuss pupil reaction.
  8. Discuss Burleigh’s accomplishments.
    - Burleigh sang before King Edward VII in London in 1908, among other prestigious European concerts.<sup>[5]</sup> From 1900 to 1925, Burleigh was also a member of the synagogue choir at the Temple Emanu-El in New York, the only African-American to sing there.
    - In 1914, he was a founding member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), and received a seat on its board of directors in 1941.
    - In 1917, Burleigh received the Spingarn Medal, which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) awards annually for outstanding achievement by an African American. He also received honorary degrees from Howard University and Atlanta University.
    - Burleigh is honored with a feast day on the liturgical calendar of the Episcopal Church (USA) on September 11. Also, works he edited or transposed continue in the 1982 Hymnal, including No. 529 ("In Christ there is no East or West").
  9. Burleigh passed away in 1949 and was buried in an unmarked grave in White Plains, NY
  10. Burleigh passed in 1949 and was buried in an unmarked grave in White Plains, NY. His body was exhumed in 1994 and re-interred in Erie Cemetery spearheaded by the Harry T. Burleigh Society of Erie.
  11. Pfeiffer- Burleigh Elementary School in Erie bears his name
    - Write an essay that encompasses your knowledge and achievements of Harry T. Burleigh.

References: Burleigh Bibliography, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Burleigh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Burleigh)

Burleigh Music, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Burleigh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Burleigh)

- Students may also visit Burleigh's gravesite at Erie Cemetery
- Students may visit Burleigh Marker on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street at French Street
- Students may also visit the website [www.sharedheritage.org](http://www.sharedheritage.org)