

# Philip Reid Saves the Statue of Freedom

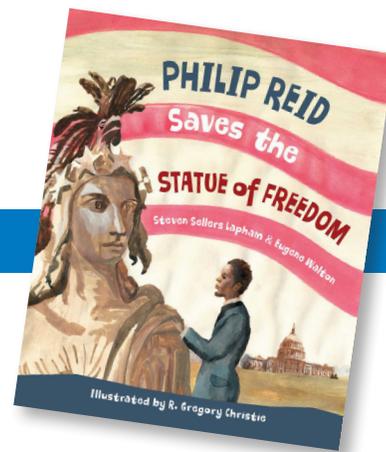
## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Problem-Solving, Black History

**Book Brief:** A talented artisan, Philip Reid solves the problem of how to take apart the Statue of Freedom so that it can be cast in bronze and put on top of our nation's Capitol dome.

**Authors:** Steven Sellers Lapham and Eugene Walton

**Illustrator:** R. Gregory Christie



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children if they recognize the building on the front cover—it's the Capitol, where Congress meets! Tell them the Statue of Freedom sits on top of the Capitol. This story is about Philip Reid, who played an important role in making sure the statue made it to the top of the Capitol dome.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### WATCH AND LEARN (AGES 5-12)

Philip learned how to cast bronze and work with plaster by watching others. Invite a local artist to demonstrate how to create a piece of art (e.g., painting, pottery, weaving, drawing). As children watch the demonstration, have them try their hand at recreating the same type of art. What did children learn by watching? What did children learn by doing? If you can't have an artist visit, watch videos of artisans at work: [www.vimeo.com/channels/artisan](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/artisan).

### SAND CASTING (AGES 5-12)

Materials: pie tins, clean sand, water, shells, plaster of paris

Fill pie tins with sand. Mix in enough water to mold shapes. Let children press shells into the sand mixture to make prints. Mix plaster of paris according to package directions. Pour into prints. When the plaster has hardened, remove from tin and wipe off excess sand. Have children discuss the details that surprise them.

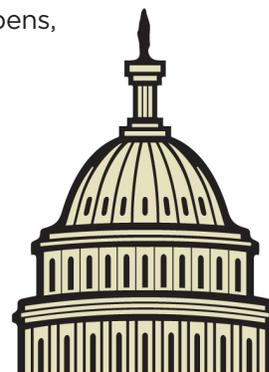
### PULL IT OVER (AGES 7-12)

Materials: rope, kerchief or bandana

To take apart the statue, Philip used *force*. The trick was knowing how hard to “pull” to make a small crack but not break the statue. Let children experiment with a game of “pull it over.” Tie a kerchief around the middle of a long, thick rope. Divide children into teams and line them up on each end of the rope. Use tape or chalk to mark a center line on the floor. The mission is to pull the kerchief over the center line, *not* to pull the other group over. If that happens, the statue is broken!

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.c-spanvideo.org/program/statue](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/statue) to see how the statue was placed back onto the Capitol dome in 1993 after its restoration.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT BLACK ARTISTS

*Dave the Potter*, Laban Carrick Hill (2010), *Henry Ossawa Tanner: His Boyhood Dreams Come True*, Faith Ringgold (2011), *It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw*, R. Gregory Christie (2012).



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