

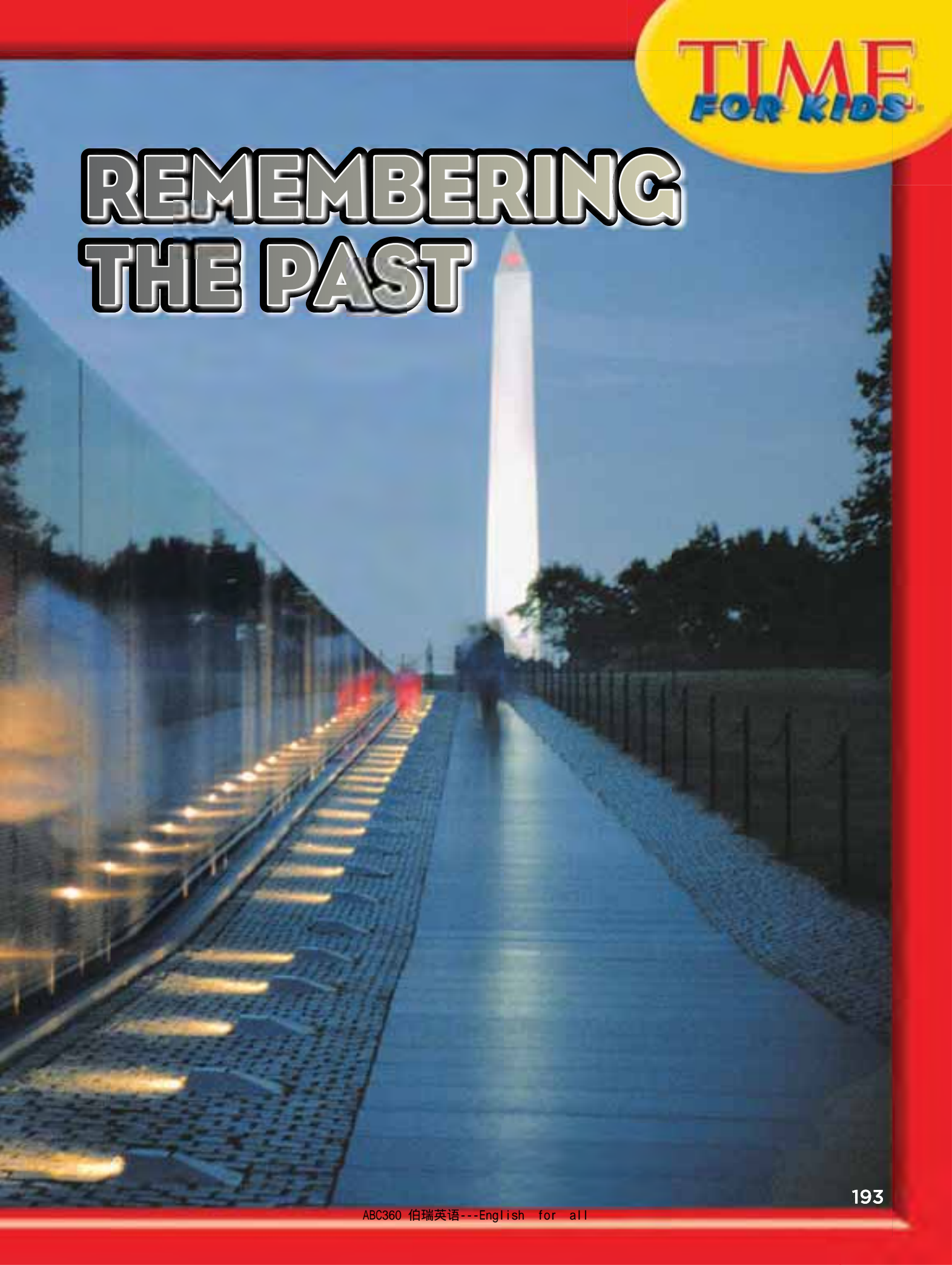
Talk About It

Is it important to remember what happened in the past? Why or why not?



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REMEMBERING THE PAST



Vocabulary

dedicated

equality

artifacts

exhibits

site



A stop on the Underground Railroad

Toward FREEDOM

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center was **dedicated** in August 2004. The museum is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and sits just across the river from Kentucky, a former slave state.

Journey to a Better Life

In the mid-1800s, there were more than 4 million slaves in the United States. They were denied **equality** with other people. Under the law, slaves had no civil rights, including such basic rights as owning property.

The Underground Railroad was the name for a series of places where slaves could stay during their journey north

The slave pen at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center



to escape slavery in the South. Code words were used to protect slaves on their trip. The places they stopped were called “stations,” the people being guided toward freedom were called “packages,” and the guides were called “conductors.”

Preserving the Past

Artifacts—human-made objects from the past—and lectures at the museum teach about slavery and the trail to freedom. One of the **exhibits** is a slave pen where a slave dealer once locked up slaves. Visitors can enter the small building and imagine what it was like to be locked up in a cramped space with dozens of other people.

In the Hall of Everyday Heroes, museum visitors learn about people who stood up for what they believed. These heroes helped bring the basic right of freedom to many people. Visitors might learn that they, too, can stand up and make a difference.

ON SACRED GROUND



Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell

In September 2004 the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., opened. What is the museum's goal? "To

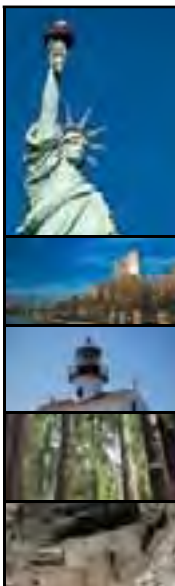
show and tell the world who and what we really are, and to use our own voices in the telling," says museum director Rick West. West is a member of the Southern Cheyenne tribe.

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, a Northern Cheyenne, helped get the project started. Exhibits represent more

than 1,000 tribes. The sad chapters of the Native American story, in which millions died at the hands of settlers, are part of the museum's message. Native Americans insisted that Indian art and modern culture be key features of the museum.

Before the building was constructed, Chief Billy Redwing Tayac blessed the **site**. His tribe, the Piscataway, lived in the Washington, D.C., area. "The water is still here. The Earth is still here. And we are still here," he said. "We're very proud that Indian people today have a place to remember our ancestors."

TOP 5 MOST VISITED NATIONAL MONUMENTS



In 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt established Devils Tower in Wyoming as the first national monument in the United States. Today there are more than 60. Here are the 5 most popular ones.

1 Statue of Liberty (New York)	5,200,633
2 Castle Clinton (New York)	4,390,268
3 Cabrillo National Monument (California)	1,095,638
4 Muir Woods National Monument (California)	860,378
5 Montezuma Castle (Arizona)	853,821

VISITORS A YEAR



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(Source: National Park Service)