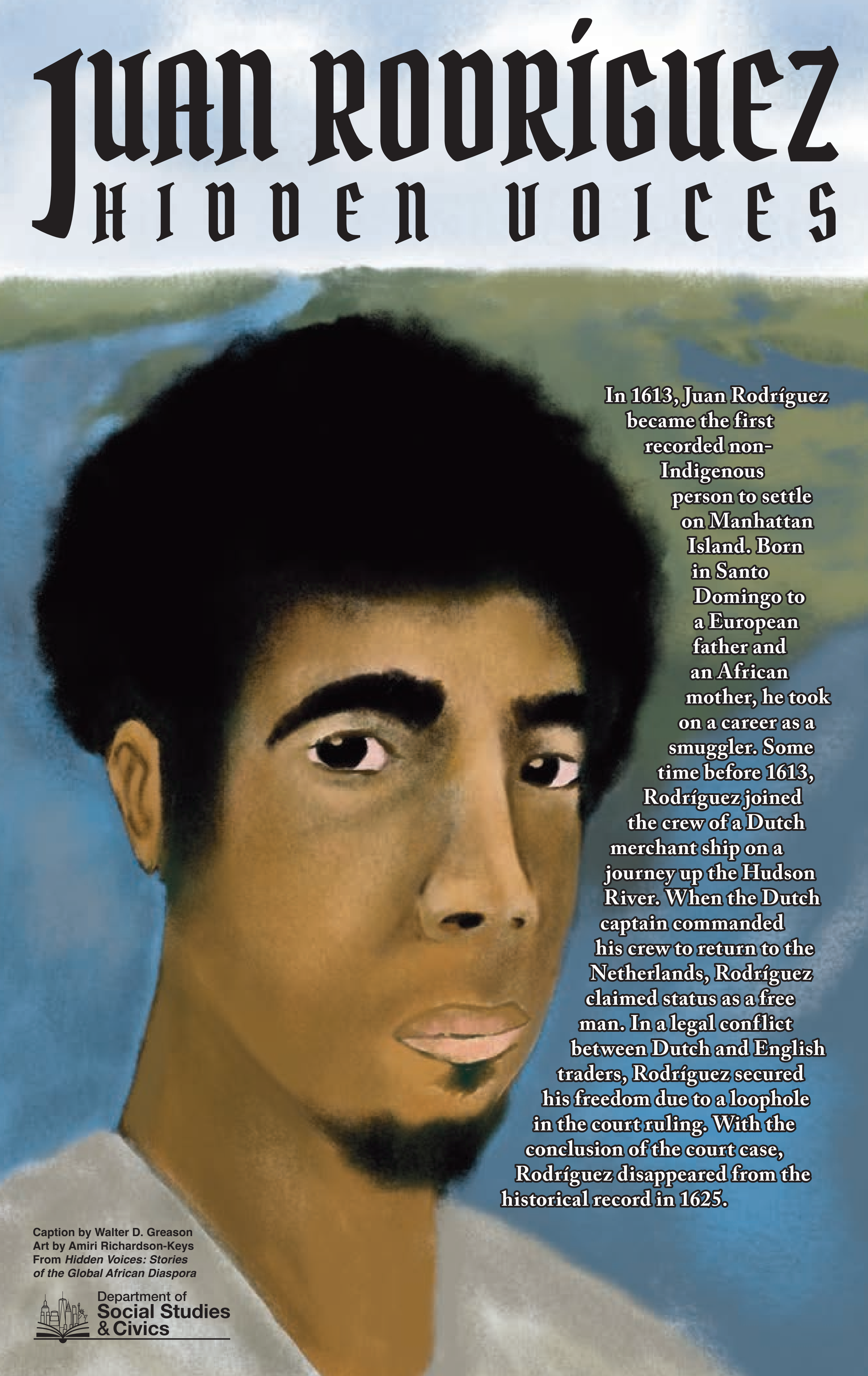


JUAN RODRÍGUEZ

HIDDEN VOICES



In 1613, Juan Rodríguez became the first recorded non-Indigenous person to settle on Manhattan Island. Born in Santo Domingo to a European father and an African mother, he took on a career as a smuggler. Some time before 1613, Rodríguez joined the crew of a Dutch merchant ship on a journey up the Hudson River. When the Dutch captain commanded his crew to return to the Netherlands, Rodríguez claimed status as a free man. In a legal conflict between Dutch and English traders, Rodríguez secured his freedom due to a loophole in the court ruling. With the conclusion of the court case, Rodríguez disappeared from the historical record in 1625.

Caption by Walter D. Greason
Art by Amiri Richardson-Keys
From *Hidden Voices: Stories of the Global African Diaspora*



Department of
**Social Studies
& Civics**