



Colorful Pages

LESSON PLANS

Black Heroes in History

Grades K-5 Lesson Plan

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Black Heroes in History

Grades K-5 Lesson Plan

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Grade Levels: K-5	Content Areas: ELA, Social Studies, Distance Learning
Featured Books: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History, by Vashti Harrison• Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History, by Vashti Harrison• Young, Gifted, and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present, by Jamia Wilson and illustrated by Andrea Pippins	
Section on <i>The Spectrum of Multicultural Literature</i>: Dependent on the Chapter	
Lesson Summary: In this lesson, students will start to learn more about Black History through researching Black Heroes in History. Depending on the grade level and setting, students will participate in research through an adult read aloud, YouTube video, and/or an article. Then, they will be asked to complete a worksheet where they will write about the facts they learned about the Black Heroes in History. <p>This is a great lesson to START to talk about Black History and introduce students to some key Black Heroes. You can also do the lesson multiple times with different Black Heroes in History. But, please make sure the conversations do not just stop here!</p>	

Common Core State Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Informational Text - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.K.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.K.2; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.1.2; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.2; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Lesson Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can learn and remember facts about Black Heroes in History using key details from a text or video.• Students can write facts and key details they learn in full sentences.

Assessment: Black Heroes in History Worksheet

Rubrics:

Grades K/1

	1	2	3	4
Recalling Facts	Student did not recall any facts.	Student started to recall key words.	Student recalled 1-2 facts.	Student recalled more than 2 facts.
Full Sentences	Student did not write anything.	Student wrote some words.	Student wrote full sentences.	Student wrote full sentences creatively.

Grades 2/3

	1	2	3	4
Writing Facts	Student did not write any facts.	Student wrote 1-2 facts from the text.	Student wrote 3 facts from the text.	Student wrote 4 or more facts from the text.
Full Sentences	Student did not write anything.	Student wrote some words.	Student wrote full sentences.	Student wrote full sentences creatively.

Grades 4/5

	1	2	3	4
Writing Facts Using Key Details or Quotes	Student did not write any facts.	Student wrote 1-2 facts from the text using key details or quotes.	Student wrote 3 facts from the text using key details or quotes.	Student wrote 4 or more facts from the text using key details or quotes.
Full Sentences	Student did not write anything.	Student wrote full sentences with 4 or more grammar mistakes.	Student wrote full sentences with only 2-3 grammar mistakes.	Student wrote full sentences creatively and with 0-1 grammar mistakes.

Materials:

- 1-2 Books:
 - [*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*](#), by Vashti Harrison
 - [*Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History*](#), by Vashti Harrison
 - [*Young, Gifted, and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present*](#), by Jamia Wilson and illustrated by Andrea Pippins
- Grade Level Black Heroes in History Worksheets (see blog post at www.colorfulpages.org)
- Grade Level Black Heroes in History: Research Links List (see blog post at www.colorfulpages.org)
- Pencils, crayons
- Computer (if distance teaching)

PARENT/TEACHER DIRECTIONS

If you **ARE** able to do a live lesson or work together with the kids:

1. **Introduction:** Introduce lesson topic and activate students' prior knowledge
 - a. Share that we will be learning about Black Heroes in History
 - b. Ask students: *What are the names of some Black Heroes you know of in History?*
 - i. Give students time to think and then call on 2-5 students
 - ii. Record their ideas down for the class to see
 - c. Introduce project by having students open/get out their materials (Online Worksheet on Computer OR Printed Worksheet and Pencils/Crayons) and reading the worksheet directions
 - i. **Teacher:** *Today, we are going to complete one of our Black Heroes in History Worksheets together! We are going to get/open up our materials, read a book together, and then write what we learn. Can you please open up your worksheet on your computer [or turn to your printed copy in your packet]?*
2. **Read Aloud:** Read one of the three books listed in the Materials section
 - a. Introduce the read aloud and share that we are only going to read 1-2 chapters in the book (depending on time)
 - b. Pause reading in order to ask questions to promote understanding. Some questions you can ask are:
 - i. *Who is the Black Hero in History this chapter is about?*
 - ii. *What are some facts you learned so far?*
 - iii. *What did ____ contribute to history? What was ____ famous for?*
 - iv. *What was ____'s childhood like?*
 - v. *What did ____ do as an adult?*
 - vi. *What text-to-self connection do you have with ____'s life?*
3. **Modeling:** Model how to complete the worksheet
 - a. Project the worksheet so students can see it
 - b. Reread the directions together and review the grade-level-specific rubric if necessary (this makes expectations transparent for students)
 - c. Fill out the worksheet together as a class by asking:
 - i. *What is the name of the hero in history we learned about?*
 - ii. *What facts did we learn about them?*
 - iii. *For Older Kids: Where did it say that in the text? What is a specific quote I can add to my writing to support my thinking?*
4. **Closing Circle:** Recap the learning you all did and review directions (if they are also researching on their own)

- a. Praise students for working hard to research a Black Hero in History who did a lot for our world
- b. Review Directions for the Black Heroes in History Worksheet that they're going to complete on their own
 - i. Show them the "Black Heroes in History: Research Links List"
 - ii. Model how to pick a hero and click the link to the research
 - iii. Review the worksheet again

If you ARE NOT able to do a live lesson or work together with kids:

On your online learning platform or in an email to parents, post:

- An Introduction to the Project (feel free to use the "Lesson Summary" from above)
- "Black Heroes in History: Research Links List" (specific to your grade level)
- "Black Heroes in History Worksheet" (specific to your grade level – there is also an Online Worksheet version)

Notes:

- This is a great lesson(s) to START to talk about Black History and introduce students to some key Black Heroes. Please make sure the conversations do not just stop here!
- Do NOT put your Black students on the spot during this lesson just because you are teaching about Black Heroes in History. Let them share if they want to, but do not force them to share just because they share a racial identity with the heroes – that can lead to racial harm and will not empower them.
- Feel free to adjust the rubric depending on your grade level, state standards, and learners.
- Scripted language is a SUGGESTION! Please do **not** feel like you have read everything word for word. Teaching wouldn't be any fun if we couldn't teach with our own style 😊