



Honoring the Spirit of America

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“African American Contributions to America”

Subject Area:

Social Studies

Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:

US History (11th grade)

Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:

Summarizing

Non-verbal representation

Concept/ Topic to Teach:

Patriotic contributions of African Americans

Georgia Standards Addressed:

SSUSH 5, SSUSH 6, SSUSH 8, SSUSH 16, SSUSH 21

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

General Goal(s):

Gain an understanding of the contributions of African Americans to the United States of America.

Specific Objectives:

1. Students will find and organize information about African Americans to show the significant contributions they have made to American life.
2. Students will create a timelines with brief written descriptions about those contributors they have selected.

Required Materials:

Poster board

Markers

Scissors

Computer

Internet

Books listed below

African Americans: Voices of Triumph. Vol. 3 Creative Fire, Time-Life Books, 1994.
Volume three of a three-volume set on African Americans, it covers contributions to filmmaking, music, literature, and the visual arts. Extensive bibliography, photos, illustrations, and reproductions.

Lee, George, ***Interesting Athletes: Black American Sports Heroes***, Ballantine Books, 1993 (pbk.). A compilation of the greatest African American sports heroes. Mini-biographies of Jesse Owens, Roy Campanella, Sugar Ray Robinson, Rafer Johnson, and others. 150 drawings.

Powell, Richard J., ***Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century***, Thames & Hudson, 1997 (also in pbk.). A new study of 20th century black art, concentrating on the artwork itself. Includes the works of hundreds of artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and Spike Lee. There are 160 biographies of key artists.

Seymour, Gene, ***Jazz: The Great American Art (The African American Experience)***, Franklin Watts, Inc., 1995, 1996 (pbk.). A history of jazz from its roots to contemporary times, discussing major performers. Young-adult school edition.

Worley, Demetrice A., and Jesse Perry (eds.), ***African American Literature: An Anthology***, National Textbook Co., 1998

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Begin a general discussion with students that concentrates on various areas where African Americans have contributed to America. Concentrate on showing that African Americans have contributed in a vast number of areas to our society.
2. Ask students to choose one field that is of great interest to him/her. Help students narrow down their choices to a subject that will be manageable to research.
3. Student should write a brief description of what they have chosen and why they have chosen that topic.
4. Students should research the area they have chosen noting important events, dates, and people.
5. Students should compile a timeline with the major events and characters. Students may team together if topics overlap.
- 6 Student should present there timelines and hang them for display in the hallway.

Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:

Adaptive software/hardware

Extensions for Gifted Students:

Have students write about how our society would be different without the contributions of African-Americans for their chosen topic.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects:

Additional Comments: