

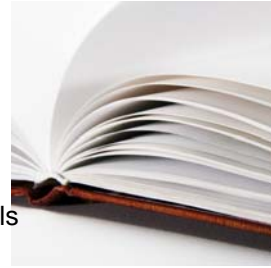
African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: African American Folk Tales

Subject: Social Studies

Grade: 6

NGSSS-SS: **SS.6.W.1.3-** Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical process.



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** After reading and analyzing the commonalities between different African/African American folktales the students will create their own folktales using their common themes/elements.

Objective(s): Students will create an original folktale using common elements found in African/African American folktales.

Materials:

- Selected books on African/African American folktales
- Library/Media Center Resources: Books on African/African American folktales, supplementary videos (i.e. movies) on the folktales, etc.

Duration: Several Class Sessions

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. Select two or more African and/or African American folktales. Read the stories aloud yourself or have the students do it as a class.
2. With the entire class, discuss the commonalities of folktales. Identify the morals or themes to the stories. Discuss the author's use of vivid language, dialogue, figures of speech, etc.

Activity 1:

1. Assign students to locate other examples of folktales from the classroom library, Media enter or the Internet.
2. Have the students write brief reports on the folktales.
3. Upon completion of the reports, have the students share with the class or in small groups what they learned from the folktale.

Activity 2:

1. Students will write their own original folktale. Engage students in pre-writing activities such as:
 - listing or brainstorming ideas
 - clustering or listing details to be included
 - developing a story
 - sharing ideas with a partner
2. Have students draft their folktales.
3. Use peer revision. Students should refer back to the list of characteristics which they developed earlier. (The commonalities of

folktales) Students are to list how many of those characteristics are evident in their folktales? Encourage students to revise as needed.

4. Use peer editing. Students should partner edit their folktales according to the conventions of standard written English. The final draft should be neat and free of errors which interfere with meaning.

5. Have students create illustrations for their folktales. Publish the works by having the students create small book versions of their folktales, having them included in the school newspaper, literary magazine or other publication.

Assessment:

Teacher observation or group and partner work. Evaluation of written product.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions:

1. What similarities do the folktales have with each other?
2. What is the purpose of understanding the morals to stories?

**Suggested Books
In Lesson:**

- Abrahams, R. (1999) African American Folktales, Pantheon.
- Abrahams, R. (1983) African Folktales, Pantheon.
- Niane, D. T. (1995) Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, Longman
- Cummings, P. (2002) Ananse and the Lizard, Henry Holt and Company.
- Anardema, V. (1997) Anansi Does the Impossible, Coward McCann.
- Onyefulu, O. (1994) Chinye: A West African Folk Tale, Viking.
- Ziefert, H. (2000) First He Made The Sun, Putnam Publishing Group.
- Daly, N. (2000) Fly, Eagle, fly!: An African Fable, Margaret K. McElderry.
- Mollel, T. M. (1994) The Flying Tortise: An Igbo Tale, Oxford/Houghton.
- Hooks, W. H. (1996) Freedom's Fruit, Knopf.
- Paye, W. & Lippert, M. (2002) Head, Body, Legs: A Story From Liberia, Henry Holt.
- Haskins, J. (1994) The Headless Haunt and Other African American Ghost Stories, Harper Collins.
- Arrington, H. J. (1997) The Heart of a Friendship: An East African Folk Tale, Pelican.
- Hamilton, V. (1995) Her Stories: African American Folk Tales, Fairy Tales and True Tales, Scholastic.
- Diakite, B. W. (1997) The Hunterman and the Crocodile, Scholastic.
- Williams, S. (2002) Imani's Music, Atheneum.
- Lester, J. (1994) John Henry, Dial.
- Harris, J. C. (1997) Jump Again! More Adventures of Brer Rabbit, Harcourt.
- Doucet, S. A. (2002) Lapin Plays Possum, Melanie Kroupa Books.
- Hunter, B. D. (1995) The Legend of the African Baobab Tree, Africa World Press.
- Hamilton, V. (1983) The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl, Harper Trophy.
- Haskins, J. (1998) Moaning Bones: African American Ghost Stories, Lothrop Lee & Shepard Books.

- Moodie, F. (1997) Nabulela, Farrar Strauss Giroux.
- Lyons, M. E. (1995) Raw Head, Bloody Bones: African-American Tales of the Supernatural, Aladdin.
- Medicott, M. (1996) The River That Went to the Sky: Twelve Tales by African Storytellers, Kingfisher Books.
- Hamilton, V. (1996) When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing, Scholastic.
- Lester, J. (2002) Why Heaven is Far Away, Scholastic.

Web Resources:

Several African Folktales can be found on the following web links:

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/africa1.html>

<http://ccs.clarityconnect.com/NRiggs/AfricanFolktales.html>

http://www.phillipmartin.info/liberia/text_folktales_intro.htm

<http://www.pbskids.org/africa/tale/index.html>

<http://www.allfolktales.com/>

http://www.africanculturalcenter.org/5_4_3folktales.html

Folktales Throughout the African Diaspora:

<http://www.a-gallery.de/docs/mythology.htm>

http://www.indiana.edu/~afrist/outreach/Beaver/Final_Project.htm