

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: ABC's of African/African American History

Subject: Language Arts

Grade: Pre-K, K

NGSSS-SS: SS.K.A.2.1
Compare children and families of today with those in the past



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** Students will associate the letters of the alphabet with a concept related to African/African American history and culture. By way of this activity, students are to develop an appreciation for different aspects of African/African American history and culture.

Objective(s): Graphic
Writing
Presentation

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Teacher generated (see sample list included at the end of this lesson)

Duration: Multiple Classes

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. Explain to the students that Africa is the home land of the ancestors of many people living in the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America today (you may want to use the term "great, great, great, great grand parents depending on the readiness of the students). Explain that as they learn (or practice) using alphabetical order, they will also learn facts about Africans/African Americans and their culture.
2. Tell the students that each day they will receive a sheet of construction paper. Each day a letter will be added with an African/African American fact. The students will draw the letters and draw a picture representing the fact they learned. At the end of the unit, they will put all the all the pages together and complete the alphabet book of African/African American facts.
3. Explain that the cover page will be completed as a total group activity.
4. Ask a student to come to the board to write the upper case A and lower case (a).
5. Tell the class that A stands for Africa and use a wall map, transparency or computer-smart board image to show and discuss its size, geography and history. Share a prepared page with a picture of Africa in the center. The letter should be in the upper left corner with a caption about Africa under the picture. After appropriate practice, instruct the students to write the letter in the upper left corner. The title,

ABC's of African American History, may be written by students or prewritten by the teacher. You may have the students color in the image of Africa.

6. Introduce a new letter and word each day and repeat the process. Definitions from the recommended list may be shortened or altered according to the student's level. This list has been provided as a teacher resource.

7. The teacher may want to laminate completed pages

8. When all pages are completed, the teacher is to punch 3 holes on the left side of the pages. The teacher may want to have the students tie the laminated pages together using yarn to create a book (depending on the readiness of the students)

Assessment:

- Pages may be checked periodically for student understanding and ability to follow directions.
- Teacher may evaluate books according to neatness, completeness and accuracy.
- Performance demonstration
- Teacher observation

Variations:

- Students may be challenged to find their own words for each letter.
- Additional words may be written for extra credit.
- Ask the media specialist to provide additional resource materials.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions:

1. What other words can you come up with that start with ____?
2. Why is having an education very important?
3. Who do you consider to be a leader?

Web Resources:

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/interactive-alphabet/index.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/africa/>

<http://www.coloring.ws/coloring.html>

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

<http://www.dtk-kids.com/coloring.htm>

<http://www.meandmephot.com/Extras/ColorBk/ColorBk.html>

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

<http://blackquest.com/link.htm>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com>

Recommended Books: A Coloring Book of Ancient Africa (1986), Bellerophon Books.

Noble, M. (2003) African Designs Coloring Book, Doyler

Sibbet, E. (1979) Ancient Egyptian Design Coloring Book, Doyler

A Coloring Book of Ancient Egypt (1988), Bellerophon Books

ABC's of African American History

Recommended Word List (Use according to grade level, condense definition when appropriate)

- A = Africa - Where the great, great, great grandparents of African Americans came from

- B = Brave - To stand strong
- B = Braids - When you connect three sections of hair to make a pattern
- B = Basket - A woven container with handles

- C = Community - A group of people living in the same area
- C = Congo - A country located in South Western Africa

- D = Dance - To move with rhythm
- D = Drum - A musical instrument that makes a hollow sound when you beat on it
- D = Dashiki - West African shirt
- D = Frederick Douglass - Strong African American leader who fought for our rights

- E = Education - When you are learning

- F = Fulani - The largest ethnic groups of West Africa

- G = Griot - West African story teller
- G = Ghana - Once a powerful West African country from where the great, great, great, great grandparents of many African Americans came. It also means "King."

- H = Hero - A person with great courage and strength (Examples: Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, Toussaint L'Overtour, Antonio Maceo, Harriet Tubman)

- I = Intelligent - When you know a lot (Examples: Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X)

I = Imhotep	-	Egyptian King; known as the Egyptian father of Medicine, several pyramids were created while he was king.
J = Juneteenth	-	Celebration of the end of slavery (June 19th, 1865)
K = Kufi	-	Knitted cap worn by many West African Muslims
K = Kente Cloth	-	West African fabric that is made of interwoven cloth strips (comes from Ghana)
K = King	-	Male ruler of a country (Examples: Imhotep, Mansa Musa, Sundiata Keyta)
K = Kemit	-	The original name of Egypt
K = Martin Luther King, Jr.	-	Strong African American leader who fought for our rights
L = Leader	-	A person who guides (or who is in charge and helps) others
L = Lion	-	Strong animal (of the cat family) that lives in Africa (“King of the animals”)
M = Mali	-	Once, the most powerful nation in West Africa from where the great, great, great, great grandparents of many African Americans came from.
N = Nile	-	The largest river in the world, located in East Africa
O = Overcome	-	To do something difficult (As in the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement, etc.)
P = Papyrus	-	Special paper used in Egypt on which Special messages were written
Q = Queen	-	Female ruler of a country (examples: Nzingah, Nefertiti, Cleopatra)
R = Read	-	One of the best ways to learn
R = River	-	A stream of water (example: The Nile)

- S = Sankofa - West African concept which means “go Back and get it,” symbolized by a bird looking behind itself
- S = Songhai grandparents - Once, a powerful West African kingdom from where the great, great, great, great of many African Americans came from.
- T = Triangle - 3 sided shape; the shape of a pyramid (as in the ones found in Egypt)
- T = Timbuktu - Where many intelligent people studied located in West Africa
- T = Harriet Tubman - African American leader who fought for equal rights
- U = Unity (Umoja) - When people come together for a purpose (Umoja means Unity in Swahili and is a principle of Kwanza)
- U = Ukulele - A string powered instrument originally designed in Ethiopia
- V = Village - Many ancestors of African Americans lived in these in West Africa
- W = Water - What makes up a river (as in the Nile)
- X = Malcolm X - A strong African American leader who fought for our rights
- X = Xosa - South African people who are known to speak a language that involves clicking the tongue
- Y = Yam - Food that comes from Africa (It is like sweet potato)
- Y = Yoruba - Group of people that live in West Africa
- Z = Zebra - Striped animal (horse) that lives in Africa