

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Commemoration Gallery for Haitian Heritage Month

Subject: World History
American History

Grade level: 9, 11

NGSSS-SS: **SS.912.A.1.2-** Utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources to identify author, historical significance, audience, and authenticity to understand a historical period.



SS.912.C.2.5- Conduct a service project to further the public good.

**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** After conducting researching, writing reports and gathering materials on the contributions of Haitians in the Americas, the students will organize a “Commemoration Gallery” to be exhibited during Haitian Heritage Month in May.

Objective(s): The students will

- Demonstrate appreciation for multicultural perspectives of history.
- Foster awareness for inter-cultural historical events and contributions.

Materials:

- Internet Resources
- Attached Documents
- Science Poster Boards
- Markers, Colored Pencils, Crayons, etc.
- Glue

Duration: 5 class periods

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. Explain to the students that historians are constantly working to uncover parts of our inter-cultural heritage that we have either forgotten or have been completely unaware took place.
2. Have the students read and discuss the attached article “U.S. Monument for Haitian Soldiers Who Fought in the U.S. War for Independence.”
3. Prompt discussion by asking higher order thinking questions:

(examples)

- Besides the information covered in this article, what else do you know about the contributions of the Haitian people?
- Why is it important to learn about the contributions of other cultures?
- Why is it important to commemorate our heroes of different cultural backgrounds with monuments such as the one you just read about?
- If you had the opportunity to create a monument commemorating a heroic historical achievement, for whom and for what would you create it?

Activity:

1. Have students complete research to write brief reports (2 to 3 pages) on the great contributions and relationships that Haitians have historically made in the Americas.

Suggested Topics:

- Approximately 750 Haitian freemen assisting in the U.S. War for Independence – The Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779.
- Toussaint L'Ouverture organizing the first large scale battle against the Spanish, British and the French and developing a lucrative sugar trade with the United States. He was eventually captured in an ambush and died imprisoned in France. He is credited for being one of the Fathers of the Haitian Revolution.
- Alexandre Petion offering aid in the form of arms to Simon Bolivar in exchange for abolishing slavery and including the colors of the Haitian flag (Red and Blue) on all of the colonies he liberated in South America.
- On May 16 – 18, 1803 – Traditional rivals Jean Jacques Dessalines, leader of the Blacks and Alexandre Petion, leader of the mulattos, met in the city of Archahaie and agreed to fight as a united front against Napoleon Bonaparte's colonial army. This pact sealed the fate of French rule in Haiti and led to the creation of the first Black Republic in the Western Hemisphere.
- Jean Baptiste Du Sable founds the city of Chicago in the 1770s. He finally becomes recognized for this accomplishment in 1968. Du Sable was the first Haitian to be placed on a Black Heritage Stamp.
- Frederick Douglass served as U.S. Minister to Haiti between 1889 and 1891.
- Under the tag name SAMO, Jean Michel Basquiat became one of the most noted graffiti artists in New York City throughout the 1980s. His paintings were displayed in major art museums throughout the world and featured at shows with the works of such artists as Keith Haring and Andy Warhol.

- 1990s - Edwidge Danticat becomes one of America's most celebrated new writers, publishing story books such as Breath, Eyes, Memory and Krik? Krak!
- October 17, 2001 Governor Jeb Bush names assistant public defender Fred Seraphin the first Haitian-American judge in Miami-Dade County
- In January of 2005 Grammy-award winning musician Wyclef Jean founds Yele Haiti, a non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding schools and providing food and clean water to the poor in Haiti.
- In 2006, community activist Max Rameau initiates Umoja Village, a project dedicated to housing the poor in Miami-Dade County.

Suggested Websites for Research:

Toussaint L'Ouverture

<http://www.historywiz.com/toussaint.htm>

<http://www.hyperhistory.net/apwh/bios/b4louverturetoussaint.htm>

<http://www.bartelby.com/65/to/TousStLO.html>

Jean Jacques Dessalines

<http://www.webster.edu/~corbetre/haiti/leaders/dessalines.htm>

http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~dhsa/dessa_bio.html

Alexandre Petion

<http://web.upmf-grenoble.fr/Haiti/Petion.htm>

Frederick Douglass

<http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/douglass/home.html>

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/progress/douglass_1

<http://www.caribvoice.org/A&E/basquait.html>

Jean Michel Basquiat

<http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Basquiat.html>

<http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/95dec/basquiat.html>

Fred Seraphin

<http://southflorida.bizjournals.com/southflorida/stories/2001/10/15/daily31.html>

Edwidge Danticat

http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/people/d/edwidge_danticat/index.html

Wyclef Jean

<http://www.yele.org/>

Max Rameau

<http://maxrameau.com>

<http://www.earthfirstjournal.org/article.php?id=3>

Various

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/398.html>

http://haitisupport.gn.apc.org/10_fam_main2.html

2. After proof reading the reports, have students type them professionally on Microsoft Word.
3. Have students research pictures in magazines, newspapers and the Internet representing their individual projects. (The students may also draw images).
4. Have the students post their reports and pictures on a science poster board. Encourage the students to be creative with their designs.
5. Upon completion, have the school Media Center display the projects for Haitian Heritage Month in the form of a gallery.

Extended Lesson:

- Designate an entire day to student presentations in the Media Center. Invite other classes and the community to the presentations.
- Invite guest speakers from the community to speak about their unique experiences as a Haitian living in South Florida in the Media Center.

Assessment:

- Evaluate reports for historical accuracy, correct grammar and neatness.
- Consider creativity grades in projects.
- Consider cooperation grade in cases of students working together.

**Suggested Books
In Lesson:**

James, C.L.R. (1989) The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution, Vintage

Dayan, J. (1998) Haiti, History, and the Gods, University of California Press

McCarthy Brown, K. (2001) Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn, University of California Press

Danticat, E. (1996) Krik? Krak!, Vintage

Wilentz, A. (1990) The Rainy Season: Haiti Since Duvalier, Simon & Schuster