

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Florida Civil Rights History:
Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore

Subject: World History, United States History

Grade level: 9, 11

NGSSS-SS: **SS.912.A.7.17-** Examine key events and key people in Florida history as they relate to United States history.

SS.912.C.2.8- Analyze the impact of citizen participation as a means of achieving political and social change.



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** After a reciprocal teaching lesson about the heroic accomplishments of Florida leaders, the students will demonstrate empathy for the Civil/Human Rights struggle by answering and discussing higher order thinking questions.

Objective(s): The students will

- Analyze human behavior and historical processes.
- Identify causes, forms and effects of discrimination.
- Set standards for responsible action.
- Recognize ethical and unethical uses of power.
- Become aware of individual, group, and community roles in advocating personal, societal, and political responsibility.
- Learn to value and uphold tolerance.

Materials:

- Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore biography
- Worksheet

Duration: 1 class period

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. Discuss with the students how world famous Civil Rights cases such as the assassinations of Emit Till and the four little girls in the Birmingham church had been reopened at the turn of the new millennium due to the finding of new evidence. You may use the following websites as references:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/10/21/60minutes/main650652.shtml>

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-05-10-till-case_x.htm

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/media/clarion/kc_birmingham.html

2. Explain to the students that there were many others who sacrificed their lives in the on-going battle to have Blacks obtain freedom/equal rights; two of them being Florida activists Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore

Activity:

1. Have the students read the biography of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore using reciprocal teaching methods. Be sure to write words on the board and define words that the students are either unfamiliar with or have difficulty understanding.

2. Have the students answer the questions on the worksheet.

3. Discuss the answers as a class.

Assessment:

Evaluate answers to questions according to historical accuracy, grammar and neatness.

**Global
Extended Lesson:**

Have the students watch the PBS documentary *Freedom Never Dies* and the school version of the movie *Cry Freedom*. Have the students compare and contrast the Moores' struggles against segregation in the Florida with Steve Biko's struggles against apartheid in South Africa. The PBS documentary can be purchased at <http://www.pbs.org/harrymoore/>.

**Internet
Resources:**

<http://www.nbbd.com/godo/moore/>

<http://www.brevardparks.com/htm/index.php>

<http://www.pbs.org/harrymoore/terror/k.html>

<http://www.nbbd.com/godo/moore/bioHarry.html>

[http://myfloridalegal.com/moore.nsf/WF/JFAO-6SQHZ9/\\$file/MooreExecSum.pdf](http://myfloridalegal.com/moore.nsf/WF/JFAO-6SQHZ9/$file/MooreExecSum.pdf)

Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore

Harry T. Moore was born on November 18, 1905, in Houston (Hous-ton), Florida, a tiny farming community in Suwanee County, in the Florida panhandle. He was the only child of Johnny and Rosa Moore.

In May 1925, at age 19, he graduated from Florida Memorial College with a "Normal Degree" and accepted a teaching job in Cocoa, Florida-- in the watery wilderness of Brevard County.

He spent the next two years teaching fourth grade at Cocoa's only Black elementary school. During his first year in Brevard County, he met Harriette Vyda Simms. Within a year they were married.

Her family lived in Mims, a small citrus town outside of Titusville. The newlyweds moved in with Harriette's parents until they built their own house on an adjoining acre of land. Meanwhile, Harry had been promoted to principal of the Titusville Colored School, which went from fourth through ninth grades.

In 1934, Harry Moore started the Brevard County NAACP. By 1941, NAACP work had become Moore's driving obsession. In 1941, he organized the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, and soon became the unpaid executive secretary for the Progressive Voters League of Florida. In this position he successfully broke down registration barriers and was responsible for the registration of tens of thousands of Black Americans throughout Florida.

In 1943, he moved into an even more dangerous arena: lynchings and police brutality. At first, his protests were confined to letters to the governor, but he quickly threw himself directly into lynching cases, taking sworn affidavits from the victims' families and even launching his own investigations. From that point until his death, Moore investigated every single lynching in Florida. Because of their political activity, the Moore's teaching contracts were not renewed in 1946.

In July 1949, the Groveland rape burst upon the national scene, after four young Black men were accused of raping a white woman. A White mob went on a rampage through Groveland's Black neighborhood, and the National Guard had to be called out to restore order. Once again, Moore threw himself into the case. After uncovering evidence that the Groveland defendants had been brutally beaten, Moore leveled those charges against the most notorious lawman in the country: Sheriff Willis McCall of Lake County.

Only six weeks later, on Christmas Day 1951, Moore himself was killed when a bomb was placed beneath the floor joists directly under his bed. Moore died on the way to the hospital; his wife, Harriette, died nine days later. Harry and Harriette are the only husband and wife to give their lives to the movement.

Harry T. and Harriette Moore are remembered by their students for their dignity, determination, compassion, discipline, and great value they placed on education.

In 2005, Florida Governor Charlie Crist had the investigation of these murders re-opened at the request of the Moore's daughter Juanita Evangeline. Four violent members of the Ku Klux Klan are said to have been responsible for the crime.

Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore
Questions from the Reading

1. As an educator who demonstrated much care for his students, why do you believe Harry T. Moore decided to join and become so active with the NAACP?

2. Knowing how difficult it was for Blacks to exercise their civil rights back then, if you lived in Brevard County in 1934, would you have gotten involved with the NAACP? Explain why or why not.

3. Why would you suppose the Moore's daughter, Juanita Evangeline, pushed so hard to have the investigation of the murder case re-opened, even 50 years after her parents' death?

4. What qualities do you look for in a hero?

5. Would you consider Harry T. and Henrietta V. Moore to be heroes? Explain.
