

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: The Garvey Movement

Subject: American History

Grade: 11

NGSSS-SS: **SS.912.A.5.8-** Compare the views of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Marcus Garvey relating to the African-American experience.



**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** The students will study the achievements of Marcus Garvey and the UNIA using multiple media resources. The students will write essays comparing and contrasting the information found in the media resources.

Objective(s): Students will:

- Identify the various strategies of Marcus Garvey's UNIA
- Discuss the appeal the Garvey Movement had not only on Black America but Black populations throughout the world
- Understanding historical events through various media resources

Materials:

- Internet resources
- Books, magazines and other resources made available by the school Media Center
- DVD: PBS documentary: *Marcus Garvey: "Look for me in the Whirlwind"*
- Construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc.

Duration: 1-2 class periods

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:**

1. The teacher will have the Pan-African (Red, Black & Green) flag displayed in the class room (either a physical flag, drawn on the board or a jpeg image via a smart board)

2. The teacher will ask the students if they have ever seen the Pan-African flag before or have seen anyone use the colors in the form of decoration or clothing?

3. Explain to the students that the Pan-African flag was founded in the Garvey Movement and how the colors are today used at many Black cultural celebrations.

4. Write on the board what each color represents:

- Red: The Blood (What bonds African people)
- Black: The People
- Green: The Land (Africa)

Activity 1:

1. The teacher will have the students read as a class a brief biography

on Garvey and the UNIA. An example can be found at <http://www.marcusgarvey.net/Information/history.htm>. While reading the biography, the teacher will emphasize particular events in Garvey's life.

- Marcus Garvey was from Jamaica and experienced racism at an early age.
- Marcus Garvey traveled throughout the Caribbean and Latin America and realized that everywhere he went, the Black populations lived in poverty.
- Garvey decided to start the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Jamaica in 1914 and later founded the central branch in New York City in 1916.
- Under the UNIA Garvey taught the value of Black pride and economic empowerment on an international level.
- Among the many business Garvey ran included the *The Negro World* newspaper, several clothing factories and The Black Star Line.
- The UNIA developed branches throughout the globe.

2. Present the PBS documentary on Marcus Garvey, *Marcus Garvey: "Look for me in the Whirlwind"*

3. Have the students write a brief essay comparing and contrasting the way Garvey is portrayed in the biography and the documentary.

Activity 2:

(Optional) Using construction paper, internet images, markers, colored pencils, etc. have the students create a mural of Marcus Garvey and his achievements. Incorporate brief essays or poems by the students that demonstrate appreciation for his achievements.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions:

1. Considering Garvey's economic (business) strategy, why would you suppose the United States government considered Garvey a threat?
2. Considering that Garvey stood firm against integration, how did it automatically put him at odds with W.E.B. Du Bois and the NAACP?
3. What internal problems did Garvey experience that may have played a major weakness to his movement?
4. Based on what you have understood about the UNIA's weaknesses, what would you have proposed to have an organization such as the UNIA function better?
5. Today, how would you be able to practice Garvey's economic philosophy in your own neighborhood?

Suggested Books In Lesson:

Garvey, M. (1986) *The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey (Africa for the Africans)*, Majority Press

Garvey, M. (2005) *Selected Writings and Speeches of Marcus Garvey*, Dover Publications

Web Resources:

<http://notablebiographies.com/Fi-Gi/Garvey-Marcus.html>

<http://www.marcusgarvey.net/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/garvey/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/garvey_marcus.shtml

<http://www.unia-acl.org/>