

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Myths, Tales and Epics

Subject: Social Studies

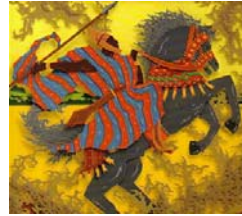
Grade: 6

NGSSS-SS: **SS.6.W.1.3-** Interpret primary and secondary sources.

Description/ Abstract of Lesson: After reading and discussing the story of Sundiata, the students will produce illustrated versions of the most important highlights of the story.

Objective(s): Students will read and comprehend excerpts from the story of "Sundiata Keita: An Epic of Old Mali" found on

[http://woodlawnschool.pbworks.com/f/Excerpts+from+Sundiata,+An+Epic+of+Old+Mali\(1235\).pdf](http://woodlawnschool.pbworks.com/f/Excerpts+from+Sundiata,+An+Epic+of+Old+Mali(1235).pdf)



Materials:

- Book by D.T. Niane: Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali

Duration: 1 Class Period

Lesson Lead In/ Opening: Pre-teach the critical vocabulary of the reading:

- **Djele (Griot)**
- **Historian**
- **Oral History**
- **Distinguished**
- **Islam**
- **Blacksmith**
- **Baobab**
- **Balafon**
- **Encampment**
- **Empire**

- Activity 1:**
1. Begin having the students read the story. As the students read, guide them by having them predict what is going to take place "next" throughout.
 2. After reading the story as a class, identify the major events in Sundiata's life and list them on the board.
 4. Assign students to work with partners or in small groups to illustrate one of the major events.
 5. Post student work after completed.

Assessment: Teacher observation and evaluation of illustrations as indicators of comprehension.

Higher Order

- Thinking Questions:**
1. Why would you suppose griots (djeles) are regarded crucially important to the development of the society?
 2. How would this story be explained differently if it was being told from a Ghanaian (Sosso) perspective?
 3. What is the difference between a griot (djele) and a seer?
 4. How did time away from his homeland help Sundiata?

**Suggested Books
In Lesson:**

- Niane, D. T. (1995) Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, Longman
- Diouf, S. A. (2000) King and Queens of West Africa, Scholastic
- Wisniewski, D. (1992) Sundiata: Lion King of Mali, Clarion

Web Resources: <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons/grade-6-8/Sundiata.aspx>
http://www.bu.edu/africa/files/pdf/Ancient_Mali1.pdf