

African-American History

Activities for Kindergarten and First Grade

Teacher Note: Any activity created in KidPix can be saved as an image. You can take all of your students' projects, export them as images, and then import them into one Photo Story or Movie Maker presentation. Please see "Additional Resources" for directions.

Activity 1: Martin Luther King, Jr.

- **Just the Facts**

Show students the Discovery Education clip "Martin Luther King," a segment of the video "Heroes of American History." Assign 1 fact about Martin Luther King (his accomplishments, his background, etc.) to students to illustrate in KidPix. All KidPix pictures can be exported as .jpgs and inserted into a class PhotoStory.

Vocabulary: right, protest, segregation, boycott, equality, non-violent, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Nobel Peace Prize



- **Civil Rights**

Explain to students that Dr. King worked for all people in the United States to have the same rights. Tell them about the segregation that African-Americans experienced in restaurants, schools, buses and at drinking fountains. Ask them if they feel that different groups of people are better than other groups. For example, you could ask if rich people are better than poor people or if doctors are better than people who clean houses.

- **King's Dream**

Tell the children that King had a dream about peace and friendship for everyone. Ask them about their dreams for a better world, their families and their school. Have students create a dream poster in KidPix. ("My dream is...")

My dream is that no kids would bully other kids.



Activity 2: Rosa Parks

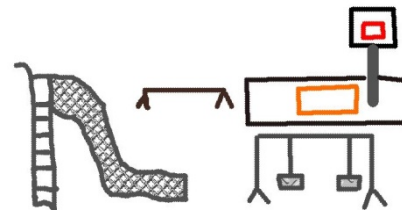
- Share the Story

Read the story of Rosa Parks from a book or on this site:

<http://www.myhero.com/go/hero.asp?hero=rosaParks>

Have students discuss how they would feel if one of their rights (things they are allowed to do) was taken away simply because of their age, what they looked like, or what they believed in. In KidPix, have students type a sentence about how they would feel if one of their rights was taken away and illustrate this by creating an image using the draw tools.

I would not like it if I was not allowed to have recess anymore. It would make me feel angry.



Activity 3: Diversity

- Many Colors

Introduce the word “diversity” to students. Explain that it means a group that has many different parts inside it. Relate this to a box of crayons, that there are many colors in the box, so the box contains a diverse set of colors. Have students stand in a circle, with each child holding one hand out toward the center. As a class, examine how different everyone’s hands look, yet they do the same things. Then, have students go to their seats. Hand out a piece of white paper to each student. Ask each student to choose 1 crayon from their crayon box and draw a picture of a butterfly. Next, have students use many crayons from their box and draw another butterfly. Ask students which butterfly they like the best. Promote the idea that a group of people who look different from each other (as well as have different things that they like to do) make life more interesting. ***This activity can also be completed in the lab using KidPix instead of paper and crayons.***

Activity 4: Discrimination

- Unfair Treatment

Explain to students that sometimes people get treated unfairly because of how they look, act, talk, dress, etc. Tell students that you are going to play a game in which some people get treated in a way that is not fair. Explain that it is not real; you are just playing a game. Have all students who are

wearing a certain color, shoe type, or jeans stand up. Tell them that just because they are wearing what they are wearing today, they will get a prize. Give each child a sticker. As the rest of the class comments about the unfairness, ask them why they feel that this is unfair. Explain that this is how others feel when we choose to be friends with someone just because they are like us, and exclude others from becoming our friends just because they are not like us. Tell that that this is called discrimination. Give a sticker to each child who did not receive one previously.

Activity 5: Culture

- **Culture Video**

Show students the Discovery Education video "Diversity Elementary: Culture and Ethnicity." (If you do not have enough time to show the entire video, please show the clips "Family Tree Sings about Culture," "Mutt and Culture Cat Compare their Cultures," and "People in Different Cultures Have Lots in Common" from the same video.) Talk about the definition of culture (language, religion, marriage, things you believe in, holidays, food, and clothes) and explain that cultural heritage is your family history and all of the people who share your culture with you.

- **Customs and Way of Life**

Ask students to name some things that their family does every year (celebrate birthdays or holidays, go on a vacation, have a family reunion, etc.) or every day/week (go to work, eat dinner together, go to church, walk the dog, etc.). Explain that these things are customs and that not everyone in the world does these things in the same way that we might do them. List customs that your classroom has on the Smart Board or on paper using the document camera. Have students illustrate customs that they participate in in KidPix. Then have students pair up and give examples (use images from the libraries) of their customs (same and different) in a Venn diagram in Kidspiration3.

- **Traditions: African Storytelling**

Inform students about how Africans were enslaved and brought to the New World to do work for the settlers. Show the video "To be a Drum" from the website <http://www.storylineonline.net/>. Ask them what they think it means when Mr. Jones says to be a drum.

Share African folktales (Like the Anansi the Spider stories) and explain that they were told to children to explain African history and culture as well as to teach life skills in ways that kids could understand them. (You may want to go to the Tumble Books site to look for Anansi stories and other African folktales.)

- **Traditions: Freedom Quilt**

There is an excellent lesson plan to use with the book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, by Deborah Hopkinson

<http://www.africanaheritage.com/sweetclara.asp>

Then, have students create their own freedom quilt in KidPix. Ask a few students to share their quilt with the class (using your projector) and explain how it tells others to go to a specific place to find safety.

Freedom Quilt

My quilt means there is a safe place to stay in the barn.



Activity 6: Holidays

- **Kwanzaa**

Show students the Discovery Education video “Holiday Facts and Fun: Kwanzaa.” Have students create a poster in KidPix to show understanding of this holiday.

Kwanzaa



- **Juneteenth**

Share this information with students. Juneteenth is the oldest holiday that celebrates the end of slavery. It was first celebrated on June 19, 1865 in Galveston, TX. Today, we celebrate it to show appreciation for African-American freedom, and focus on education, achievement, self-reflecting, goal setting, and spending time with friends and family.

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
(see activities at beginning of document)