

African-American History Activities for Second 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: 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 - Digital Story

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 can read Anansi and other African tales to students using this web site:

<http://africa.mrdonn.org/anansi.html>

There are reflection questions after the Anansi story. Have students pair up and write a short folktale telling how an animal got a long tail, whiskers, long ears, or other noticeable body part which makes it different from other animals. Have them type and illustrate their story (one event on each slide) in KidPix. They can share their slideshow with the class when they have finished.

▫ 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>

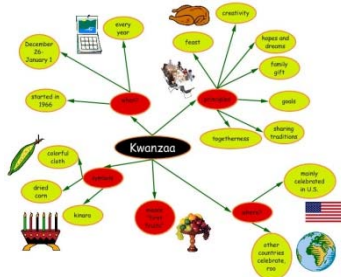
After reading the story, have students create their own freedom quilt in KidPix. Ask a few students to share their quilt with the class (using your projector) and explain how it tells others to go to a specific place to find safety.



Activity 2: Holidays

▫ Kwanzaa

Show students the Discovery Education video “Holiday Facts and Fun: Kwanzaa.” Have students create a bubble map in Kidspiration3 listing about 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

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 that no kids would bully other kids.



Activity 3: Important People in our History - Poster

Rosa Parks

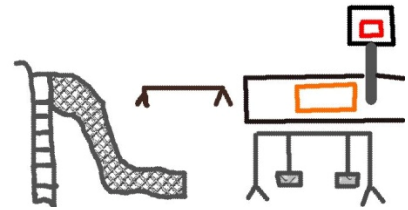
▫ Share the Story

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.



W.E.B. Du Bois

Explain that W.E.B. Du Bois (pronounced doo-boyz) was the first African-American to get a Ph.D. from Harvard, a very important college. He went on to teach history and economics at Atlanta University. He believed that African-Americans who had gone to college should use their knowledge to teach other African-Americans who had not been able to go to college. He thought that the only way that African-Americans and White Americans would be able to get along was if African-Americans peacefully spoke out against racial prejudice and were well informed about their cultural heritage. Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP, an organization that fought for the rights of African-Americans. He was the editor this group's magazine, *The Crisis*, for many years. He wrote several books to promote the rights of African-Americans. He was a strong supporter of the rights of all people.

George Washington Carver

Show students the video on the following site:

http://learninggamesforkids.com/social_studies_games/inventor-games/george-washington-carver-video.html

-For a more complete biography, read the information on George Washington Carver from the following web site:

<http://gardenofpraise.com/pdf/textb22.pdf>

Explain that Carver thought that in order for a person to be successful, they needed to help others. Have students brainstorm things they have done to help other people and share those things with the class. Explain crop rotation (planting different crops in a specific rotation so that the soil doesn't get depleted of nutrients) to students. Inform them that George Washington Carver became a college teacher. He taught his students to plant peas into soil to make it good for growing cotton and tobacco. He also used peanuts to enrich the soil. He invented over 300 products that contained peanuts including soap, shampoo, milk, cheese, face cream, and ink. He made more than 100 products from sweet potatoes including flour, starch, and artificial rubber. He developed over 75 products from the pecan. He also made paint and dyes from clay. He was an advisor for Ford Motor Company (in improving tires), and received many medals and awards for agricultural uses and improvements.

Have students choose one of the people they have been learning about (King, Parks, Du Bois, Carver) and create a poster in KidPix. Or a diorama using the template on Pasadena ISD's site:

<http://www.pasadenaisd.org/foldables/diorama/diorama.htm>