

African-American History Activities for Third Grade



Review:

Definition of citizenship, characteristics of good citizenship, examples of people who have displayed good citizenship

Activity 1: Ruby Bridges

Define *justice* (being fair and reasonable, supporting fair treatment of others). Give an example of justice.

Define *rights* (things you can do and have just because everyone is supposed to be able to do or have these things). Give an example of a right.

Define *discrimination* (judging people based on what group they belong to, rather than what they do as an individual). Give an example of discrimination.

Inform students that from 1955-1968 there was a period called the Civil Rights Movement. During this time, African-Americans were fighting discrimination in the United States. They were not given the same rights as White Americans, so they marched and chose not to participate in certain events. They refused to obey laws that they thought were unfair and many of them went to jail for this.

Read *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles to the class. (If your campus does not have this book, go to this website and click "Read" next to each paragraph.) Then ask the following questions:

<http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/elementary/samoset/gr2rbridges.htm>

1. Who was Ruby Bridges?
2. What made her different from others around her?
3. What difficult situation was Ruby in?
4. How did she deal with this situation?
5. How would you have felt if you had been Ruby? Would you have stayed home or gone to school? Why?
6. What character traits did Ruby show in the story?

Activities:

- Have students write a reflection on this activity either by sending the response to their teacher in Gagle email or on the teacher's Edmodo or blog page.
- Have students create a wordle (<http://www.wordle.net/create>)

Activity 2: Barbara Jordan

Ask students to name what they know about Barbara Jordan. Inform them that she was a Houstonian who was the first African-American woman from a southern state and the first African-American Texan to be elected to Congress. Tell them that they are going to be doing some research on Ms. Jordan and then create a digital biography of her.

Give students a copy of the following questions to use during their research:

1. When was Barbara Jordan born? (February 21, 1936)
2. What was her education like? (graduated from high school, went to college at Texas Southern University and earned a B.A. in political science and history, earned a law degree from Boston University in 1959)
3. What jobs did she have? (Texas senator, representative, member of House Judiciary Committee, keynote speaker at 1976 Democratic National Convention)
4. What awards did she earn? (Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1994)
5. Is she still alive? (No, she died on January 17, 1996)
6. Are there any other interesting facts you learned about her? (She was on the debate team in college).

Students will locate the answers to the above questions using library databases. Then, they will use the information to create a 5-Slide Digital Biography in PowerPoint.

Slide 1: Cover - 1 image, title, student name

Slide 2: Dates of birth and death, 1 image

Slide 3: Education, may have 1 image

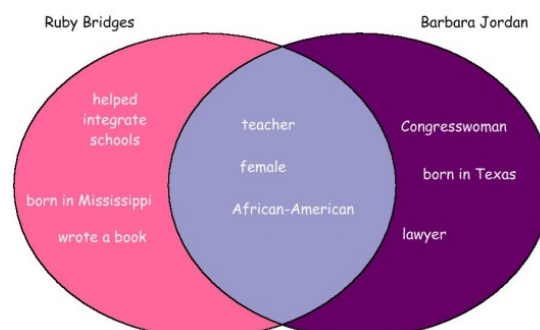
Slide 4: Work/Awards, may have 1 image

Slide 5: Interesting Facts, may have 1 image

Note: You may want to have students do the Presentation Basics lessons in learning.com before starting the slide shows.

Optional Activity:

Compare and contrast Ruby Bridges and Barbara Jordan in Kidspiration3. Use the Venn diagram Supergrouper to do so.



Notes

You might choose to research Ruby Bridges as a class (lesson on how to do research), and then divide your class into small groups and have them research the following individuals using questions 1-6:

- Benjamin Banneker
- Harriet Tubman
- Kadir Nelson
- Phillis Wheatley
- Wallace "Wally" Amos

Students should take notes on the individual they research, and apply information gathered by creating a product such as a Discovery Education board (or other digital poster), Photo Story, comic strip (<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com>) or trading card (http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading_cards_2).