

Title: Preserving African American History (National Parks and Historic Sites)

Grade Level: 3-5

Subject: ELA & Social Studies

Lesson Plan:

Preserving African American History (National Parks and Historic Sites)

Subject:

American History

Grade:

3-5

Description/

Abstract of Lesson

The students will discover African American History at National Parks and Historic Sites.

SS.3.A.1.3

Student will be able to define terms related to the social sciences.

LA.4.6.4.2

Determine and use appropriate digital tools (e.g., word processing, multimedia authoring, web tools, or graphic organizers) for publishing and presenting a topic

Objective(s):

Students will be able to learn about enslaved peoples on American soil to where Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us all to rise to his "Dream," by researching national parks.

Materials:

- Computer for researching sites

Duration:

- 2 class periods

Lesson Lead In/ Opening:

Lesson Background Information

Introduce lesson by showing <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/africanamericanheritage/index.htm>

Empowered by a legal loophole, thousands of enslaved Africans escaped and found refuge at a Union-held fort during the Civil War. Fortress Monroe in Virginia became the site of the first "contraband camp"; a spontaneous community of self-emancipated blacks where inhabitants often became recruits for military service.

Activity 1:

Students can use the following website to locate other national parks and historic sites dedicated to preserving African and African American history.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/aahistory/bhm-sites.htm>

Activity 2:

Ask students to visit Ten Important African American Sites You Might Not Know

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/02-06-2017-african-american-history-month.htm>

Activity 3:

Have students create a Did you know project and share out with the class on the following African American Sites:

- African American Burial Ground National Monument in New York
- Biscayne National Park in Florida
- Fort Davis National Historic Site in Texas
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in Missouri
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Alaska

Writing Activity

- Have students write an essay on the question, "What contribution could you make to the national parks?"

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Suggested Books:

Deagan, Kathleen A. Fort Mose: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995.

Federal Writers' Project. Florida Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in Florida from Interviews with Former Slaves. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 2006.

Web Resources

<https://redtri.com/black-history-month-resources-for-kids-of-all-ages/>

<https://www.education.com/activity/black-history-month/>