

# **General Ethnic Studies**

## **Sample Lesson 3: Important Historical Figures Among People of Color**

Theme: History and Movement

Disciplinary Area: General Ethnic Studies Grades 9-12

Ethnic Studies Values and Principles Alignment: 2, 6

Standards Alignment:

CA HSS Analysis Skills (9–12): Historical Interpretation 1-4

CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy: RH.9–10.1, 3, 8, 10; WHST.9–10.2, 4, 6, 7, SL.9–10.1, 4, 5, 6

CA ELD Standards: ELD.PI.9–10.1, 5, 9, 10a

Lesson Purpose and Overview:

This lesson introduces students to some of the complex people and concepts used to understand the experience of people of color in the United States.

As part of a larger unit on understanding the contributions and role that people of color have played in the building of the United States, this lesson on historical figures guides students to explore individuals within a historically oppressed community. Furthermore, students will understand how these historical figures contributed to a broader social movement that challenged racism, sexism or classism. Students will analyze the impact of that broader movement on the community and institutional structures, through research and analysis utilizing critical questions to guide their research and then presenting a biographical pictorial timeline significance PPT to the class.

Key Terms and Concepts: social movement, institutional racism,

Lesson Objectives (Students will be able to...):

1. Conduct research utilizing the critical essential questions.
2. Create a pictorial presentation, with captions, timeline, poem and quotes

3. Strengthen their research, analytical reading and notetaking, presentation creation and public speaking skills through presenting their research findings.

#### Essential Questions:

1. What was the upbringing, class background, life experiences and decisions made by the figure?
2. What made this figure an important person in the movement for racial equality? How did they challenge systems of white supremacy?
3. How did their leadership and achievements contribute to the movement for racial and economic equality?
4. What can we learn from this figure about how we should challenge white supremacy today?

#### Lesson Steps/Activities:

1. Teachers can let students choose a figure from the list provided, depending on the students' interest. The teacher may assign students a historical figure. Teachers can challenge students by choosing a figure that is not from their ethnic background to expand their knowledge of other groups.
2. Research - Once all students have a historical figure, walk through the steps of doing the research using the Source/Notes page. Make sure students are versed in evaluating valid sources on the internet making sure the sources are not biased, misleading or nonfactual. Students should choose 2-3 valid sources on their figure with each source covering a variety of information. Demonstrate how to read for factual information and write notes in the Source/Notes page. Ensure the source information is complete. Students should use the 4 essential questions to guide their research.
3. After the research is completed, students should prepare a visual biography PPT presentation which will include:
  - a. Title: Create a title using the name of your person with a picture also put your name, instructor's name, subject & period

- b. Address all 4 essential questions in your presentation using photos, drawings, captions, bullet points
  - c. Poem: Write a biography poem about your person
  - d. Quotes: Collect 1-3 or more quotes from or about your person
  - e. Illustrations: Use pictures or drawings highlighting your person's life and accomplishments
  - f. Captions: Type appropriate captions to explain your illustrations
  - g. Annotated Timeline: Show important events and dates relevant to your figure.
4. Resume: Students will create a resume for their figure.
5. The PPT will be followed up with the students writing a "Biographical Research Essay" using Modern Language Association documentation format.
6. Other considerations:

Some of the figures on this list might be controversial. There are people who were controversial in their own lifetimes but people felt differently years later. Or there are people who were popular during their lifetimes who became controversial later on.

  - Is this a controversial figure? Why would some people have strong negative or positive feelings about this figure?

Some of these figures are on the list because they have made key cultural contributions.

  - Has your figure made a significant cultural contribution?

## **Culminating Activity**

1. The final activity for students will be to become their figure. This step will be accomplished by writing a speech in the voice of the individual they have been researching and by presenting that speech in costume to a group of their peers.
2. For the overall project, students should be expected to conduct a thirty-minute oral history interview with their interviewees, and transcribe at least one interview. This is given as a homework assignment and should be completed over two weeks. Students are also encouraged to ask their interviewees for copies of old pictures, images of relics that hold some significant meaning or value to them, and/or other primary sources that speak to their migration story.

3. Students are allotted three days to work on their presentations in class and as a homework assignment. Students are given an opportunity to practice their presentations with peer to peer and peer to small group sessions before their presentation to the whole class.
4. Before students begin their presentations, teachers should review or establish norms about presenting and audience expectations. During the presentations, students in the audience should be active listeners, taking notes, and asking follow-up questions at the end of each presentation. Presenters should use this time to demonstrate their public speaking skills—maintaining eye contact, using “the speaker’s triangle,” and avoiding reading slides or poster boards.
5. After completing the assignment, teachers and students can share the projects with the broader student body, their families, and communities by posting them on a class/school website, displaying poster boards around the class, or by coordinating a community presentation event.

#### Assessment, Application, Action, and Reflection:

- Peer assessments are used to help students refine their PPT presentations prior to presenting them to the class. The teacher should visit the practice groups and provide constructive feedback to students who are having difficulty with the assignment.
- During the student presentations, the teacher can evaluate the students’ presentation skills in the context of the grade-level expectations in the *CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy*, especially the standards for Speaking and Listening.
- Teachers can use the students’ graphic organizers to determine how effectively they have absorbed the key concepts and connections from the student presenters.

#### Materials and Resources:

List of historical figures listed by ethnic group and in alpha order:

Potential Significant Figures to Cover - local figures can also be added (this list is in no way exhaustive):

<b><u>Native American Experience</u></b>	<b><u>Asian American Experience</u></b>	<b><u>Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x Experience in the US (continued)</u></b>
Diane Almendariz	“Dosan” Anh Chang Ho	
Dennis Banks	Philip Ahn	Vicki L. Ruiz
Gregory Cajate	Susan Ahn Cuddy	Ruben Salazar
Chase Iron Eyes	Wong Kim Ark	Arturo Alfonso Schomburg
Sharice Davids	Vincent Chin	Phil Soto
Vine Deloria	March Fong Eu	Sonia Sotomayor
Donald Fixico	Fred Ho	Emma Tenayuca
Geronimo	Young Oak Kim	Reies Lopez Tijerina
Corrina Gould	Fred Korematsu	Willie Velasquez
Sandy Grande	Larry Itliong	Raul Yzaguirre
Deb Haaland	Yuri Kochiyama	
Dennis Banks	K.W. Lee (Kyung Won Lee)	<b><u>Arab American Experience</u></b>
Sharice Davids	Sammy Lee	Mustafa az-Zammouri
Shannen Koostachin	Grace Lee Boggs	Nagi Daifullah
Winona LaDuke	Queen Liliuokalani	Kahlil Gibran
Sasheen Little Feather	Dawn Mabalon	Philip Hitti
Wilma Mankiller	Patsy Mink	Kemal Amin "Casey" Kasem
Xiuhtezcatl Martinez	Alan Nishio	Candy Lightner
Jacque Nunez	Tam Nguyen	George John Mitchell Jr.
Pomponio	Chiura Obata	Ralph Nader
Caleen Sisk	Angela Oh	Ilhan Abdullahi Omar
Sitting Bull	Dalip Singh Saund	Alex Odeh
Jim Thorpe	Bhagat Singh Thind	Edward Wadie Said

<b><u>Native American Experience (continued)</u></b>	<b><u>Asian American Experience (continued)</u></b>	<b><u>Arab American Experience (continued)</u></b>
Madonna Thunder Hawk	Jose Antonio Vargas	Linda Sarsour
Toypurina	Eddy Zheng	Jack George Shaheen
John Trudell		Alia Martine Shawkat
Zitkala Sa		Helen Thomas
<b><u>African American Experience</u></b>	<b><u>Pacific Islander American Experience</u></b>	<b><u>International Experience</u></b>
Mumia Abu-Jamal	Sia Figel	Frantz Fanon
Ella Jo Baker	Tulsi Gabbard	Feliciano Ama
James Baldwin	Mary Hattori	Comandanta Ramona
Shirley Chisholm	Kalākaua	Roque Dalton
Septima Clark	Kamehameha I	Rubén Darío
Ta-Nehisi Coates	Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole	Eduardo Galeano
Angela Davis	Shigeyuki Kihara	Benito Juárez
Frederick Douglas	Liliʻuokalani	Farabundo Martí
Amy Jacques Garvey	SPULU	Maria de Jesus Patricia Martinez (Marichuy)
Fred Hampton	Dan Talaupapa McMullin	Rigoberta Menchú
bell hooks	Teresia Teaiwa	Violeta Parra
Zora Neale Hurston	Haunani-Kay Trask	Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero
Marsha P. Johnson		Emiliano Zapata
June Jordan	<b><u>Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x Experience in the US</u></b>	Brian Fuata
Patrisse Khan-Cullors	Gloria Andalzúa	Su'a Suluape
Audre Lorde	Joaquin Murrieta Carrillo	
Clara Mohammed	Sal Castro	

<b><u>African American Experience (continued)</u></b>	<b><u>Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x Experience in the US (continued)</u></b>	
Dorothy Mulkey	Vickie Castro	
Barack Obama	César Chávez	
William Byron Rumford	Mama Cobb	
Bobby Seale	Celia Cruz	
Assata Shakur	Sylvia del Villard	
Booker T. Washington	Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzalez	
Ida B. Wells	Jessica Govea	
Carter G. Woodson	José Ángel Gutiérrez	
Malcolm X	Dolores Huerta	
	Lolita Lebrón	
	Felipe Luciano	
	Elizabeth Betita Martínez Sutherland	
	Sylvia Mendez	
	Cherríe Moraga	
	Sylvia Morales	
	Ana Nieto-Gómez	
	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	
	Cruz Reynoso	
	Oscar López Rivera	
	Roberto Cintli Rodriguez	
	Edward Roybal	

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Research on     (Name of Historical Figure)    

Find 3 valid sources (encyclopedias, news articles, academic or organizational websites) that give factual information on your historical figure. Use the essential questions to guide your research. You will need to analyze and interpret the facts to help you answer the questions:

1. Describe the upbringing, class background, life experiences and decisions made by the historical figure.
2. What made this historical figure an important person in the movements for racial equality? How did they challenge systems of white supremacy?
3. How did their leadership and achievements contribute to the movement for racial and economic equality?
4. What can we learn from this historical figure about how we should challenge white supremacy today?

Source Notes

Source (title, author, publisher, date, url)	Notes – in bulleted form, take down important facts that address the 4 essential questions
Source 1	
Source 2	
Source 3	



