

Lesson Plans: 03 SS LPQ2 African American Pioneer Aviators

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Grade Level : Grade 3

Subject : Language Arts - Elementary, Social Studies - Elementary

Standards/Assessed Benchmarks: Florida STATE FL Social Studies Standard (2008)
Grade 3
Florida Sunshine State Standards
Geography
4: Human Systems

Description/Abstract of Lesson: This is a modified version of a lesson that appears in African American Pioneers in Aviation, a teachers guide produced by the education department at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum [Smithsonian Link](#). Students will explore information based on primary and secondary source materials, including first-person accounts, newspaper articles, and archival photographs, to gain important details about the life of an important woman in the field of aviation through guided reading activities.

Essential Question-Scope & Sequence: Students will understand the challenges faced by African Americans as they created their own opportunities in the field of aviation.

Technology Connections and Teacher Materials: [Smithsonian Link](#).

Duration : 2 Hours

Vocabulary: aviation, muster, avid, toyed, quest holder, issued, prospective, accrue barnstormed, rigorous, "her people," threshold

Steps to Deliver Initial Instruction: To introduce the featured personality in this lesson begin by reading one of the following books aloud to the class: Bessie Coleman by Eric Braun (Coughlan Publishing, 2005) or Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of Brave Bessie Coleman by Reeve Lindbergh, Pamela Paparone (illustrator), (Candlewick Press, 1998).

Guided Practice with Feedback: Distribute copies of the photographic portrait of Bessie Colman. Give the students a few minutes to think about who or what this person might be and when the photo might have been made. Ask the students to cite evidence in the photograph to support their ideas. Pair the students and have the partners share their ideas. Allow time for the students to describe their observations, then lead a class discussion by asking the students to share what they discussed with their partner.

Independent Practice: Distribute copies of the cartoon and article about Bessie Coleman, "They Can't Keep Us Down." Tell students that they were published in 1921 in the Chicago Defender, one of the nation's most influential African American newspapers. Read the article aloud as the class follows along. Then lead a class discussion using the following prompts: If I say "They can't keep me down," what do I mean? b. In this cartoon, who are "us" and who are "they"? c. What did aviation mean to the black community? Why do you think that aviation had this meaning at this time? On a the board or piece of chart paper, make a class list of the obstacles Bessie Coleman had to overcome as an African American, a woman, and a pilot. .

Differentiated Instruction/Small Groups: Four students will research to find the most recent generation of black aviators who have garnered many firsts: Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., the first black four-star general; Dr. Guion Bluford, Jr., first African American to go into space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman astronaut; and Patrice Clarke-Washington, the first black female captain to fly for a major airline. Nonetheless, progress has been slow, and blacks are still underrepresented in the aviation industry. But with legal obstacles removed, and their participation increasing, today's flyers could make a reality of William Powell's vision—"to fill the air with black wings." The four students will teach the other students.

ESE/ESOL Accommodations & ESE/ESOL Strategies: Translation dictionaries, peer tutoring

Lesson Closure/Review: Compare the experiences of the most recent generation of black aviators with Bessie Coleman's.

Assessment with Clear & Compelling Students will write a diary entry in Coleman's voice, discussing the difficulties in

Product Standards: achieving her goals as an aviator and how the difficulties may have made her feel.

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