

# Lesson Plans: SS AmHis LPQ4 (and LA 11th grade) 050 African Americans in Sports

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Grade Level : Grade 11

Subject : Language Arts - High, Social Studies - High

Standards/Assessed Benchmarks: Florida STATE FL Social Studies Standard (2008)

Grades: 9-12

Florida Sunshine State Standards

American History

7: Understand the rise and continuing international influence of the United States as a world leader and the impact of contemporary social and political movements on American life.

SS.912.A.7.7 Assess the building of coalitions between African Americans, whites, and other groups in achieving integration and equal rights.

SS.912.A.7.12 Analyze political, economic, and social concerns that emerged at the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century.

SS.912.A.7.17 Examine key events and key people in Florida history as they relate to United States history.

Description/Abstract of Lesson: Students will identify and describe the African Americans who have made significant contributions to sports in American history.

Essential Question-Scope & Sequence: **How do historical events, movements, and significant people influence literature?**

Technology Connections and Teacher Materials: *I Always Wanted to be Somebody*, Harper and Row, New York, 1958. *A Pictorial History of Black Americans*, Langston Hughes, Milton Meltzer, and C. Eric Lincoln, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1975. *The Timetables of African American History*, Sharon Harley, Simon and Shuster 1995. *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, Frank G. Menke A.S. Barnes and Co., 1978. *The Chronological History of the Negro in America*, Peter M. Bergman, Harper and Row, New York, 1969.

Vocabulary: **Tournament** - A contest of skill between a number of competitors **Jim Crow** -The practice of segregating blacks from whites in everyday life based on the song " Jim Crow" performed by white minstrel Dan Rice in the 1830's. **Segregation** -The forced separation of racial groups in a community. **Olympic Games**- An international sports festival held every four years at different venues throughout the world. It is based on the ancient Greek festival held every four years in Olympia , Greece. **Prejudice** – Discrimination or intolerance of a person based on race, religion, or gender. **Hall of Fame** – Building with memorials to individuals who excelled in a particular sport. **MVP** - Most valuable player. **Grand Slam Title** – The winning of all of a group of major championships **Franchise** – A professional sports team which forms part of a league. **Controversial** – Any issue causing or subject to argument or dispute. **Hero** – a person admired for courage and outstanding achievements. **Pioneer** –one who leads or initiates a new activity or enterprise. **Aryan race** - According to Adolf Hitler's Germany, a Caucasian not of Jewish descent.

Steps to Deliver Initial Instruction:

- Introduce the lesson by asking students to define a hero. Then ask if famous athletes of today are heroes. Keep asking the question until students admit that just being good at a sport does not mean that the person is a legend.
  - Next ask students to describe how a sports figure could be a hero or role model. This is the basis of this lesson.
  - Discuss the concept of hero and legend. Discuss the challenges and difficulties that African American athletes faced in achieving their goals. Use a Venn diagram and compare and contrast the social and economic problems faced by the first black athletes in their fields. Ask students to compare and contrast the treatment of the modern African athlete with those of the past. To what extent have things changed? Have students research and determine why African American athletes experienced difficulties historically in achieving excellence in sports.

Guided Practice with

**Feedback:**

Have students read background information including the time line and background information on famous sports heroes. They should also either already be familiar with the post slavery period, Jim Crow ,and segregation in America. This can be accomplished by showing videos using material on United Streaming

- Have students select at least two African American Athletes, each from different areas of sports. Students will explore the extent to which racial prejudice and segregation made it very difficult for African Americans to gain recognition in their sporting activities. Students may choose to work individually or in groups.
- Complete further research and prepare biographical reports on black sporting heroes, comparing and contrasting their experiences.
- Students will prepare a KWL chart to assist with their biographical research. Explain to the students the difference between a biography and an autobiography. Students will prepare their written reports and accompany this with display charts. Students assisted by teachers will complete KWL charts

**Independent Practice:**

- Students will present their reports to the class. At the conclusion of their presentations, they will explore the possibility of transmitting selected copies of their presentations to the African American athletic sport heroes who are still alive such as Mohammed Ali and The Williams sisters.

**Assessment with Clear & Compelling:**

- Students will select one or two sport legends from the following list: Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, Tiger Woods, or any others from the readings or timeline they would like to research. Gather information on the internet or in the school's library listing the individuals sports achievements and their positive contributions, other than sports, made to the community or society. The teacher will select one of the sporting heroes such as Joe Louis and complete a brief analysis to assist students. This can be accompanied by a three - column graphic organizer to simplify the task. Students will submit their completed tasks for assessment.

Sport hero	Individual sporting achievements	Contribution to the community/society
Joe Louis ( Brown Bomber) (1914-1981)	Heavyweight boxing champion for 11 years, longer than any other fighter. Retired undefeated in 1949.Considered to be the finest heavy weight boxer in the history of boxing	A symbol of African American hope. Assisted in raising money for the armed forces during World War 11 Served in the military.

**Creator :** HS SS Content Team

**File Attachments:** Sports summaries reading.pdf

Sports timeline.pdf

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