



Suggested Enrichment Activities and Program Evaluations

for

“Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History”

(may be adapted for grades 4 – 9)

These activities and evaluations are to be completed after viewing the video.



Recipe for Greatness

Choose one or more of the black Mississippians who shaped Mississippi's history and write a "recipe for greatness." Students should use as many cooking terms as possible as they write about each person.

Teachers may use recipe books to give the students ideas about the terminology.

Example:

Jacob L. Reddix –

- a sprinkle of encouragement – His mother wanted all of her children to get a good education.
- a dash of teaching – He taught in the public schools.
- a cup of guidance – After becoming its president, he guided Jackson College, now Jackson State University, into a new era of growth and development.

Building Mississippi – One Brick at a Time

On a paper "brick," write a fact about each of the African American Mississippians mentioned in the video. Place each brick on the bulletin board. Build a wall of honor with noteworthy statements about these significant figures in Mississippi's history.



Black Mississippians in History – A-Z

After studying Mississippi's black heritage, think of an event, an occupation, a document, a location, or something else that is significant in the lives of the notable African Americans mentioned in the video.

On the left side of a page, write the letters of the alphabet. Beside each letter, write words or phrases beginning with each letter that expresses something important that has been discovered about these individuals. Younger students might create a bulletin board display of the alphabet phrases. Older students could plan a book of these phrases that might include photographs, drawings, etc., that illustrate each person.

Example:

- A – Alcorn University graduate (Medgar Evers)
- B – Barber who started at his brother's barbershop (Hiram Revels)
- C – Congress - first African American from Mississippi elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (John R. Lynch)
- D – Died in Africa after being freed from slavery (Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima)

Write a Biographical Sketch

After researching the famous African Americans in the video, students will write a biographical sketch including important information about the person. Information should include the person's name, birth date and family history, education, professional accomplishments, and any other important events in his/her life.



Internet Buddies

Pair older students (grades 7-12) with younger students (grades 4-6). They will explore the Internet for information on one of the following topics. One or more Web sites are suggested for each topic; there may also be other Web sites from which to choose. (See the following page).

Provide a variety of activities from which the students may choose:

1. Give an oral report.
2. Draw a picture of an important event.
3. Create a timeline of events during a specific time period such as the Civil Rights Movement.
4. Produce a written report on the information gathered from the Internet sites.



- Black Codes of 1865
<http://afroamhistory.about.com/od/blackcodes/a/blackcodes1865.htm>
http://afroamhistory.about.com/library/blmississippi_blackcodes.htm
- Mississippi Constitution of 1890
http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/features/feature10/1890_constitution.html
<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/features/feature3/contofms.html>
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/intro/intro_b.htm
- Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution
http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_Am14.html
- Fifteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution
<http://www.historicaldocuments.com/15thAmendment.htm>
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
http://www.naacp.org/about/about_index.html
http://www.naacp.org/about/about_history.html
- Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi (1950 -1970)
<http://www.usm.edu/crdp/html/ed/intro.htm>
<http://www.watson.org/~lisa/blackhistory/civilrights-55-65/mississippi.html>
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohhtml/exhibit/aopart9.html>
- Piney Woods School
<http://www.pineywoods.org/>
- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
<http://www.usm.edu/crdp/html/cd/mfdp.htm>

General Web sites

<http://www.aaregistry.com/>
<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/>
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhtml.html>
http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/bh_hotlist.html
<http://www.britannica.com/Blackhistory//subjects/bio.do>



A Walk through Mississippi: African American History and Events

Create learning centers in the classroom for some significant events in Mississippi's history from 1800 to 1860 (pre-Civil War era) or another appropriate time period. Information about important persons – posters, photographs, and objects – may be viewed in these centers. After completing research, older students might like to role-play or create a skit with a cast of characters relevant to a specific time period. Community public relations might be advanced here, with parents attending the centers on a special day.

Example:

Learning center topics may include the following for the pre-Civil War era:

Cotton gin – Increased cotton processing tenfold

Industrial Revolution — Made demand for cotton great – “King Cotton”

Natchez – The center of culture during the pre-Civil War era

William Johnson – Free man of color in a plantation society in Natchez

Robert Smith – Also a free man of color in a prominent position in Natchez

Elizabeth Greenfield – Born into slavery in Natchez and became a world-famous opera singer



Puzzle Boxes

Show the video on *Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History* at the beginning of a week of your choice in February. On each day of the week, post clues in a designated area of the classroom about *Black Mississippians Who Shaped Our History*. At the end of each day students write their guess as to who the person is on a small piece of paper along with their name and drop it in a box. Correct answers are then placed in a box for a random drawing. Three names are drawn and prizes awarded.

Examples of Puzzle Clues:

1. I was the first African American in the United States to be elected to the U.S. Senate.
2. I lived in Natchez and also served in the Mississippi legislature.
3. I was a Methodist minister and educator.
4. I founded Alcorn University and was its first president.

Hiram Revels

1. I was born in Newton County and attended Alcorn University.
2. My home was located in Jackson.
3. I was state Field Secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi.
4. I was a civil rights activist and was assassinated in 1963 by Byron de la Beckwith.

Medgar Evers

1. I was from Missouri but taught in Mississippi at Utica Institute.
2. I founded Piney Woods School in 1909.
3. I appeared on the television program "This is Your Life" in 1954, where my life's story was told.
4. I inspired many Americans to send one dollar each to Piney Woods School, and \$700,000 was raised.

Laurence C. Jones

1. I was born in Van Cleave and was an educator and civic leader.
2. I served for twenty-seven years as president of Jackson State University.
3. I founded a credit union in Hinds County that became the forerunner for the only black-operated commercial bank in Mississippi.
4. I am a member of the Mississippi Hall of Fame.

Jacob L. Reddix



(Puzzle Boxes continued)

1. I was born in Louisiana and migrated to Natchez.
2. I was a photographer, attorney, and author.
3. I became a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and was later elected the Speaker.
4. I was the first African American from Mississippi to be elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

John R. Lynch

1. I live in Issaquena County in the town of Mayersville.
2. I was the first black woman to serve as mayor of a Mississippi town.
3. During the 1960s, I was project director of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.
4. I helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Unita Blackwell

1. I was president of the Mississippi NAACP from 1960 to 1993.
2. I was a civil rights activist and a co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.
3. I was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1980 to 1996.
4. I served as chairman of the board of TV-3 WLBT.

Aaron Henry

1. I lived in Bolivar County after the Civil War.
2. I established a newspaper, the *Floreyville Star*.
3. I was the first black man to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate.
4. I was the first black Register of the U. S. Treasury.

Blanche K. Bruce

1. I was the son of a tribal king and was educated in Africa at the University of Timbuctoo.
2. I was captured by a rival tribe and traded to an English slaver.
3. I lived on a plantation in Natchez as a slave.
4. I returned to Africa as a free man after many years.

Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima



(Puzzle Boxes continued)

1. I was a former slave of Joseph Davis, a brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.
2. A planter and businessman, I also founded the all-black community of Mound Bayou.
3. As the only black delegate to the 1890 Constitutional Convention in Mississippi, I represented Bolivar County.

Isaiah T. Montgomery

1. I was born a slave in Jefferson County and later served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.
2. I became one of the best hunting guides in the South.
3. I guided President Theodore Roosevelt on the famous bear hunt in the Delta that resulted in the Ideal Toy Company's naming the teddy bear after the President.

Holt Collier



HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE TO THE MISSISSIPPI HALL OF FAME

Teachers, we encourage you and your students to consider making nominations to the Mississippi Hall of Fame. Nominations can be turned in by the end of this school year or, if you prefer doing this project with your next year's class of students, by the end of September 2006 for the next election.

Elections for the Mississippi Hall of Fame are held every five years. The next election is scheduled for the end of 2006. The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History welcomes nominations from the public.

Rules for nominations to the Hall of Fame are as follows:

- 1- Only Mississippians, native or adopted, who have been deceased for at least five years, are eligible for consideration.
- 2- Election requires an affirmative unanimous vote by the members of the Board of Trustees.
- 3- No more than five Mississippians shall be elected to the Hall of Fame at each quinquennial election.

Nominations must be submitted to the Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, by October 1, 2006. Nominations should be in the form of a written statement not to exceed three double-spaced typewritten pages. The statement should be carefully researched and documented by footnotes and bibliography for the references used. It should call attention to the unique contributions or accomplishments of the individual nominated.

Nominations of governors, athletes, and musicians are not accepted since they are eligible for induction into the Hall of Governors, Sports Hall of Fame, or Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.

Send nominations to

Mississippi Hall of Fame
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

You may also hand deliver these nominations to

Mississippi Department of
Archives and History
William F. Winter Archives and
Library Building
200 North Street
Jackson, MS 39201



Student Evaluation Form

*The thing I liked most about this video and activities was _____

I liked this because _____

*The thing I liked least about this video and activities was _____

because

*Some new and interesting things that I learned from this program were



Teacher Evaluation Form

1. Total number of students participating:
2. What was the age/grade of the students?
3. In your opinion, did this video and activities elicit better-than-average student response?
4. Did any of the segments of this video exceed your students' attention span?
5. Will this video and activities be of assistance in developing future classroom activities on this subject?
6. Did this video and activities add to your earlier teaching on the same subject? If so, in what way(s)?
7. How do you think this program could be improved?
8. Are there other topics/videos you would like to have us develop for outreach?
9. Additional comments?

Please mail or fax completed evaluations to:

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Museum of Mississippi History
Education Department
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
Phone: 601-576-6920
Fax: 601-576-6981