

Notable African Americans

A Teaching
and Learning
Bulletin Board!

teacher's
friend

Large
12" x 18"
cards

**Activity
Guide**

Displaying and Using Your Bulletin Board Set: Choose an eye-level bulletin board on which to display your “Notable African Americans” bulletin board set. Use the display and the reproducible patterns in this resource guide to do the suggested activities.

Social Studies Historical Timeline

After sharing information about each person on your display, work with children to create a timeline of important dates or events related to the featured African Americans. You might display sentence strips end-to-end to serve as the timeline. Along the length of the timeline, draw evenly spaced marks and label them in 10-year increments beginning with the year 1800 and ending with 2010 (you'll need 22 marks for this time range). Once the timeline is up, have groups choose a person from the display. Ask them to record important dates and events in that person's life on index cards. Then invite the groups to place their cards along the timeline. Review the information, discussing how the actions and accomplishments of early African Americans might have affected and improved the lives of those who were born later.

Born in the USA

Point out that all of the people featured on the display were born in the United States of America. To reinforce map skills, display a large U.S. map at eye level. Ask volunteers to locate the state in which each person on the display was born. They might write the name of each person on an index card and attach the card on or near his or her birth state (or place the card along the map border and use yarn to connect it to the corresponding state). You might challenge children to

also locate the city or county of each person's birth. They can research these locations on the Internet and then show the approximate area on the map.

More Facts, Please

Explain that the information on the display provides a summary of each person's life and achievements. After sharing the summaries with children, ask them to choose one of the featured personalities to research further. (They might use biographies, encyclopedias, the Internet, or other sources.) As they discover additional information about the person, have children write several of the most important or fascinating facts on large index cards. When finished, invite them to share their facts with the class. Then have them attach their fact cards around the corresponding poster on the display.

Language Arts Letters of Appreciation

Once children learn more about the featured African Americans, encourage them to quietly reflect on each one's circumstances, struggles, achievements, personal qualities, and contributions to society. Ask them to consider one person from the display and what they most appreciate about that person. Then have children compose a personal letter expressing their gratitude to that person. Encourage them to be specific about why they appreciate the person and what qualities or

accomplishments they admire. As they write, remind children to include the five parts of a personal letter: the heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature. When finished, invite them to seal their letter in an envelope and write the recipient's name on the front. Collect the envelopes in a basket. Then, when you have a few minutes to fill or want to share some inspiring words, pick an envelope, open it, and read the letter to the class (or invite its writer to read the letter aloud).

Inspirational Graffiti

Invite children to create a graffiti-covered mural as a way to express their thoughts and feelings about the notable people on your bulletin board display, as well as other significant and inspirational African Americans. First, spread a length of light-colored bulletin board paper on the floor. Provide a variety of writing and drawing utensils, such as colored markers, glitter pens, fluorescent crayons, chalk, and paint and paintbrushes. Then invite children to fill the paper with positive and inspirational quotes, sketches, actions, accomplishments, and so on, attributed to these notable African Americans. When finished,

encourage children to show and tell the class about the graffiti they contributed to the mural. Afterward, display the mural in a hallway with the title "Awesome Americans!"

Math

Do the Math!

Use the dates provided on your display to create a variety of math problems for children to solve. (Or use the dates from the timeline created in "Historical Timeline" on page 1.) For example, you might ask children to use the information on Frederick Douglass to compute what age he lived to be. Or ask them to find his age when he escaped to Massachusetts. Children might use the information about Rosa Parks and Thurgood Marshall to discover which of the two lived longer and by how much. Or they might compute how many years passed between the time Jackie Robinson won the Most Valuable Player award and Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. After presenting children with a few problems, invite them to pair up and create problems for their partners to solve using information from the display.

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Using the Reproducible Patterns

Make a Mini-Poster

Have children create mini-posters featuring other notable African Americans to add to your bulletin board display. First, list other African Americans (historical and contemporary) who have shown extraordinary determination, made outstanding achievements, or contributed significantly to society, such as Benjamin Banneker, Marian Anderson, Condaleeza Rice, Alvin Ailey, Jr., and so on. After reviewing the list with children, invite them to choose a person to research further. Distribute copies of the mini-poster pattern (page 3) for them to complete as they discover facts and interesting information about the person. They can draw a picture of the person in the box or glue a picture from a print or online source. When finished, invite children to share their mini-posters with the class. Then add the posters to your "Notable African Americans" display. Children might use the information on their mini-posters, in addition to information from

the bulletin board set, in all the previous activities in this resource guide.

Quotable Quotes

Discuss the quote shown for each African American on the display, including any that children might have included in their mini-posters (created in the previous activity). Afterward, ask children to record their favorite inspirational quotes—and the speaker's name—on copies of the patterns on page 4. They might take their quotes from the display or other sources. Have children cut out and glue their quotes to plain sheets of paper, then write a short statement under each quote to explain what it means to them. Collect and compile the pages into a book to add to your class library. Invite children to continue adding to the book whenever they come across quotes that inspire or challenge them.

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Blank rectangular box for a drawing or illustration.

(Person's Name)

Large blank rectangular box for a drawing or illustration.

Life Story

Seven horizontal lines for writing a life story.

Four horizontal lines for additional writing.

Birth: _____ Death: _____
(Year) (Year)

Birthplace:

(City, State)

“

”
(Quote)

“

”

(Source)

“

”

(Source)