

Examining Early Explorations and Contributions of African Americans

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Subject: World History		Grade: 6th
<p>Standard:</p> <p>SS.6.C.2 Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.</p>	<p>Objective(s):</p> <p>SS.6.W.1.6. Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.</p>	<p>Materials Needed:</p> <p>Internet Access or print copies of a variety of articles on the early explorations of James Beckwourth, Esteban/ Estevanico and Matthew Henson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 Amazing Explorers Who Made A Mark In History (face2faceafrica.com)• 4 Famous African Americans You Never Heard Of (blackexcellence.com)• 5 Brave Explorers (startateight.com)• Black Explorers In America 200 years before Columbus (youtube.com)• African American Early Explorers Chart (See Resources)
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Although largely unknown, African Americans have made great contributions to early American Explorations.</p> <p>Key Vocabulary Words:</p> <p>racism, anti-racism, and equality</p>		

Explicit Instruction:

Place students in groups of 2-3. Students use the provided internet links to search information on Early African American Explorers: James Beckwourth, Esteban/Estevanico, and Matthew Henson. Students spend an adequate amount of time reading the above suggested articles and viewing the video. After each student group does their own reading, the teacher reviews all the other Early European American Explorers (ie Hernan Cortez, Christopher Columbus, Juan Pizarro) that were previously studied and the contributions they made to America.

In their small groups, students complete the “African American Early Explorers Chart”. The completed information on the “African American Early Explorers Chart” is then shared with the whole class.

To extend the activity and shift student thinking, the teacher asks the following guided questions and leads a whole class discussion:

“Do you think these notable African American explorers were as popular and as equally recognized as other European explorers of this time?” Why or why not?

“Do you think their race played a part in whether or not their contributions to America were recognized?” How so?

“What impact do you think their contributions made on our society today?”

“Should race be a factor in any area of our society? Or should all people be treated equally? Defend your response.

Supported Practice:

Individual Practice:

For homework, students should complete the following activities (A and B):

A. Self-Review Questions

- What have I learned?
- What was easy to understand?
- What did I find that was hard or challenging to understand?
- How will my new understanding help me?
- What changes will I make?
- What would I like to know more about?

B. Positive Image of Equality

Students create an art piece that depicts a positive image of equality.

Differentiation:

The articles can be printed and distributed in a manner which is appropriate for each classroom.

Students may write their responses to guided discussion questions and then share their responses.

Students may complete readings individually, share their own thoughts.

Lots of internet information on this topic; selected articles do not have to be utilized.

Assessment: (Informal)

Group and individual responses shared

Resources:

African American Early Explorers Chart

NAME OF EARLY EXPLORER	CONTRIBUTIONS	IMPACT ON PRESENT SOCIETY