

Lesson: Black History Month Celebration!

Duration: - 40-45 minute lesson

Note: This lesson is intended to connect the relationship between the Soul food being served in the cafeteria and the history behind it. This is for the kids to understand *why* they are eating that specific food meal. This could be broken up into two 20 minute sessions.

Section 1: Framework

Essential Question

- Why do we celebrate Black History Month?
- Who are some prominent people in Black History? How did they influence history (farming, cooking, inventing)?

Lesson Objectives

- Students will be able to understand the appreciation of Black History, why it is important to celebrate, and why it has been placed in February.
- Students will be able to recognize various key figures in history.
- Students will be able to connect common cuisines, music and staple inventions with their origin.


Context


Black History Month was chosen in February because of the birthday of Fredrick Douglass' - a black activist and writer who was able live free after escaping slavery, and lived in and influenced the history of New Bedford, MA.

Section 2: Activities

PART A

Materials

 [Before I Let Go by Beyonce](#) or the [original by Frankie Beverly](#): Can be found on all streaming platforms including YouTube.

 **(optional):** Electric Slide tutorial video provided.

 [Worksheet and Word Chart](#)

 Model Portrait or drawing of invention

 Crayons

 Pencils

 [SlideShow on Black History](#)

Month - this will include photos they can reference when making their portrait or drawing on the last slide.

Lesson Preparation

- **(Optional):** Learn the electric slide with the video tutorial that is provided on the Black History Month slideshow.
- Create a portrait/drawing model beforehand using the same materials you'll provide the students. At the bottom fill out the sentence "I drew a picture of _____ because _____."
- Use the [word chart](#) to help the students pick what or who they want to draw. (it is okay if they choose something or someone else not in the word bank, as long as it is relevant to Black History Month).

1. Lesson Preview- Slides 2 and 3 (5 min.)

Ask the students *What does Black History Month mean to you? What are some of the ways you celebrate at home or in school?* (this can include both students and teachers in the class). If the answers are limited, ask students if they have celebrated/learned about any black leaders such as Martin Luther King on MLK day, or ... add another leader..

(Optional: Play before I Let Go in the background at the start of lesson or learn and teach the students the simple dance that is usually done along with the song. The video tutorial will be provided on the second slide. (+5 min.)

2. Black History Month SlideShow continued! (15 minutes)

Once you have a grasp on their level of what they know about BHM you can then refer to the provided slide show on what the Month is about - along with highlighted black chef's, farmers, inventors, musicians and leaders of Black History.

Review key terms. You might ask students: *Do you or any of your family members use these inventions at home? What are some of the listed foods you have eaten or tried? What are some of the fruits and vegetables grown by black farmers that you are familiar with?* These questions can vary depending on your students.

3. **Activity: Portrait/Drawing (20 minutes)**

Model: Tell students that they will be drawing an invention or portrait of their choice that they know/learned about. Explain to them that a portrait is typically a drawing of someone that usually just shows their head and shoulders. Show them your model (you can have an example of each option if you're feeling ambitious)

Creating portraits: Pass out materials they'll need: The pencils, the worksheet and crayons. Remind them that you are here if they need any assistance. If time runs out and there is not another opportunity in class to finish the portraits, then they can take home their drawings to finish and show families **or** bring them back and share in class at a later date.

4. **Sharing/Reflection (5 minutes)**

Have students share with their neighbor who or what they chose to draw and why (refer them to the sentence structure at the bottom of the worksheet). Encourage comments of appreciation or help them make connections to what they decided to draw.

ADAPTATIONS:

Kahoot: There is an attached Kahoot link for kids to play and test their understanding of Black History Month. The student with the most correct answer will receive a prize of your choosing! (If you have any reward systems in place this is a perfect opportunity to use it).

Two Truths and a Lie: Present students with 3 statements about Black History month, two of them being the truth, one of them being a lie. The students will have to guess each round which statement is a lie.