

# Title: African American Women's Contributions - Student Research

**Grade Level: 6-8**

**Subject(s): English Language Arts and Social Studies**

**Keywords: Contributions**

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| <b>Lesson Plan:</b>  | African American Women's Contributions - Student Research  |
| <b>Subject(s):</b>   | English Language Arts and Social Studies   |
| <b>Grade(s):</b>   | 6-8  |
| <b>Description/<br/>Abstract of<br/>Lesson</b>                 | Students will learn about the contributions of African American women to society by engaging in research and collaborative discussion.   |
| <b>SS.6.W.1</b>  | Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.  |
| <b>SS.7.C.4</b>  | Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of United States foreign policy.  |
| <b>SS.8.A.1</b>  | Use research and inquiry skills to analyze American History using primary and secondary sources.   |
| <b>LAFS.68.RH.1</b>  | Key Ideas and Details  |
| <b>LAFS.68.WHST.3</b>  | Research to Build and Present Knowledge  |
| <b>LAFS.6.RI.1</b><br><b>LAFS.7.RI.1</b><br><b>LAFS.8.RI.1</b> | Key Ideas and Details  |
| <b>LAFS.6.W.3</b><br><b>LAFS.7.W.3</b><br><b>LAFS.8.W.3</b>    | Research to Build and Present Knowledge  |
| <b>LAFS.6.W.4</b><br><b>LAFS.7.W.4</b><br><b>LAFS.8.W.4</b>    | Range of Writing   |
| <b>LAFS.6.SL.1</b><br><b>LAFS.7.SL.1</b><br><b>LAFS.8.SL.1</b> | Comprehension and Collaboration  |
| <b>Objective(s):</b>   | Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● understand the contributions of African and African American women to society through writing and research.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Materials:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Some Notable African American Women - at end of the lesson plan</li><li>● Laptops</li><li>● Banner Paper</li><li>● Visual Arts Materials</li><li>● Digital Resources (some are at the end of the lesson plan.)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Duration:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 2-4 class periods</li><li>● Block Scheduling (90 min.) 1 class period</li></ul>  |
| <b>Lesson Lead In/<br/>Opening:</b>                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students complete a warm-up in their journals by answering this question: What do you know about African American Women's Contributions? If you do not know anything about them, what questions do you have? Write at least a five-sentence paragraph. Debrief as a class, asking students to share responses.</li><li>2. Tell students that in this lesson they will learn about African American Women's Contributions to an array of fields, such as Activism; Business;</li></ol> |

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|   | Education; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).  |
| <b>Activity 1:</b>                      | <p>Break students in groups of 3-4 depending on class size. See Some Notable African American Women at the end of the lesson plan to find options for student research. Assign each group one woman from each of three selected categories to research. Various digital resources are found at the end of the lesson plan.</p> <p>Each group creates a product on their three assigned notable women for a physical or virtual African American Women's History Museum. Some options for group products are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a video package.</li> <li>2. Create a slideshow.</li> <li>3. Create a banner mural.</li> <li>4. Create a magazine.</li> </ol> <p>For each assigned notable woman, group museum products must answer the higher order thinking questions listed below.</p> |
| <b>Activity 2:</b>                      | Each group chooses a spokesperson to staff their exhibit. Student groups do a quality check to ensure their products meet requirements, and the class sets up the African American Women's History Museum. For a virtual museum, students need to record narration while presenting their exhibits.  |
| <b>Activity 3:</b>                      | Students do a Gallery Walk and may ask the group spokesperson questions at each exhibit. Students list at least three things they learn from each exhibit.   |
| <b>Activity 4:</b>                      | The class debriefs on their learning. Students complete a ticket out: What did you learn from this research project? What did you think of this research project? Write at least a five-sentence paragraph.  |
| <b>Activity 5:</b>                      | As an extended learning activity, students could research African American women's advocacy organizations, such as the <a href="#">National Council of Negro Women, Inc.</a> and the <a href="#">National Coalition of 100 Black Women</a> as well as <a href="#">African American sororities, part of The Divine Nine.</a>  |
| <b>Higher Order Thinking Questions:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of the notable African American Woman</li> <li>2. Year and Place of Birth</li> <li>3. Year of Death (if applicable)</li> <li>4. Contributions to her field (egs. Education, STEM)</li> <li>5. Significance of her contributions: How have her contributions improved her field, community, state, and/or nation?</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Suggested Books:</b>                 | <p><i>Fight Like a Girl: 50 Feminists Who Changed the World.</i> Laura Barcella. (2016). Zest Books.</p> <p><i>Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race.</i> Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling. (2018) Harper.</p>  |
| <b>Web Resources</b>                    | <p><a href="#">A must-read list: The enduring contributions of African American women writers</a></p> <p><a href="#">African American Women - Research Guides at Schlesinger Library Harvard University</a></p> <p><a href="#">African American Women Who Made US Military History</a></p> <p><a href="#">AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN CHANGE THE WORLD - National Women's Hall of Fame</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ashleigh Johnson hopes to draw more black women to aquatics</a></p> <p><a href="#">Black Women Suffragists</a></p> <p><a href="#">Black Women in History   Explore Black History</a></p> <p><a href="#">Between Two Worlds: Black Women and the Fight for Voting Rights (US National Park Service)</a></p>  |

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| <p><a href="#">Black Women in the Military</a></p> <p><a href="#">10 BLACK FEMINISTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT</a></p> <p><a href="#">10 incredible black women you should know about</a></p> <p><a href="#">Famous African American Women in STEM</a></p> <p><a href="#">Famous Black Female Athletes Who Made History In Sports</a></p> <p><a href="#">The First Female African American Pilot</a></p> <p><a href="#">Great Floridian - Mary McLeod Bethune</a></p> <p><a href="#">Great Floridian - Zora Neale Hurston</a></p> <p><a href="#">Meet the First Self-Made Female Millionaire</a></p> <p><a href="#">NASA's Hidden Figures: The Unsung Women You Need to Know</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Pan-Hellenic Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">The National Council of Negro Women, Inc.</a></p> <p><a href="#">6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion   US Army Center of Military History</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Heroines of America's Black Press   by Maya Millett</a></p> <p><a href="#">The immortal cells of Henrietta Lacks - Robin Bulleri</a></p> <p><a href="#">The NASA women who inspired 'Hidden Figures' will get Congressional gold medals</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Revolutionary Practice of Black Feminisms - National Museum of African American History and Culture</a></p> <p><a href="#">The University of Florida Has the Most Black Women Faculty in Engineering</a></p> <p><a href="#">These Black Female Heroes Made Sure US WWII Forces Got Their Mail</a></p> <p><a href="#">Untold Stories of Black Women in the Suffrage Movement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Women - National Museum of African American History and Culture</a></p> <p><a href="#">Women of Color in STEM: The Past, Present, and Future</a></p> |
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The handout of Some Notable African American Women appears below. Teachers may use the handout to find options for student research.

## Some Notable African American Women

### Activism

Great American Family Matriarch: Elizabeth Snelling Williams

Stacey Abrams

Ella Baker

Angela Davis

Marian Wright Edelman

Dorothy Height

Rosa Parks

Dr. Condoleezza Rice

Sojourner Truth

Harriet Tubman

### Arts & Entertainment

Native Floridian: Roxie Roker

J'Nai Bridges

Misty Copeland

Ava DuVernay

Aretha Franklin

Queen Latifah

Mary Edmonia Lewis

Lupita Nyong'o

Janelle Monáe

Shonda Rhimes

Kerry Washington

### Business

Native Floridian: Cecil Hayes

Mara Brock Akil

Leanna Archer

Angela Benton

Cathy Hughes

Tina Knowles

Queen Latifah

Lisa Price

Madam C.J. Walker

Sheila Johnson

### Education

Native Floridians: Blanche General Ely, Dr. Niara Sudarkasa

Mary McLeod Bethune

Marva Collins

Dr. Glenda Glover

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

Oseola McCarty

Dr. Lily D. McNair

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons

### Government

Native Floridians: Corrine Brown, Valdez Venita Demings, Carrie P. Meek, Fredericka S. Wilson

Shirley Chisholm

Kamala D. Harris

Sheila Jackson Lee

Barbara Jordan

Carol Moseley Braun

Maxine Waters

### Journalism & Media

Native Floridian: Sara Sidner

Yamiche Alcindor

Dr. Mary Ellen Britton

Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Gayle King

Hoda Kotbe

Robin Roberts

April Ryan

Ida B. Wells

Oprah Winfrey

### Literature

Native Floridian: Zora Neale Hurston

Maya Angelou

Octavia E. Butler

Edwidge Danticat

Rita Dove

Lorraine Hansberry

Toni Morrison

Gloria Naylor

Faith Ringgold

Alice Walker

Phyllis Wheatley

### Military

Capt. Clara Adams-Ender

Margaret E. Bailey

Brig. Gen. Marcelite Harris

Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson-Brown

Command Sgt. Maj. Mildred C. Kelly

Nancy C. Lieutenant

S. Sgt. Joyce B. Malon

Edwina Martin, Fannie Jean Cotton, and Evelyn M. Brown (Air Force Pioneers)

Irene Trowell-Harris

U.S. Army Sgt. Danyell Wilson

[Six Triple Eight](#)

### Sports

Alia Atkinson

Simone Biles

Maritza Correia McClendon

Gabby Douglas

Althea Gibson

Ashleigh Johnson

Simone Manuel

Wilma Rudolph

Serena Williams

Venus Williams

## STEM

Hidden Figures: Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan  
Alice Ball

Dr. Dorothy Lavinia Brown

Dr. Alexa Canady

Bessie Coleman

Dr. Marie M. Daly

Dr. Mae Jemison

Henrietta Lacks

Rebecca Lee Crumpler

Dr. Gladys West