



Title: Who is Phillis Wheatley

Subject: ELA & Social Studies

Lesson Plan:	Who is Phillis Wheatley
Subject:	American History
Grade:	5
Description/ Abstract of Lesson	The students will read and analyze a Poem written by Phyllis Wheatley to General Washington.
SS.3.A.1.2	Utilize technology resources to gather information from primary and secondary sources.
LA.4.6.4.2	Determine and use appropriate digital tools (e.g., word processing, multimedia authoring, web tools, or graphic organizers) for publishing and presenting a topic.
Objective(s):	Students will be able to learn about Phillis Wheatley by creating poems and writing activities.
Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computer for researching sites ● Paper ● Pencil
Duration:	● 2 class periods
Lesson Lead In/ Opening: Lesson Background Information	<p>Have students watch the video Phillis Wheatley-The legacy VIDEOONPHILLISWHEATLEYLIFE Read aloud the life of Phillis Wheatley, click here Phillis Wheatley In 1773, Phillis Wheatley accomplished something that no other woman of her status had done. When her book of poetry, <i>Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral</i>, appeared, she became the first American slave, the first person of African descent, and only the third colonial American woman to have her work published.</p> <p>Born in Africa about 1753 and sold as a slave in Boston in 1761, Phillis was a small, sick child who caught the attention of John and Susanna Wheatley. Purchased as a domestic servant for Susanna, the small girl was named after the ship that brought her to Boston, the <i>Phillis</i>, and her master, Wheatley. Susanna soon discovered that Phillis had an extraordinary capacity to learn. She relieved the child of most domestic duties and educated her, with assistance from her own daughter, Mary, in reading, writing, religion, language, literature, and history.</p> <p>Phillis began publishing her poems around the age of twelve, and soon afterward her fame spread across the Atlantic. With Susanna's support, Phillis began posting advertisements for subscribers for her first book of poems. However, as Sondra O'Neale, a scholar of Phillis's work, notes, "when the colonists were apparently unwilling to support literature by an African, she and the Wheatleys turned in frustration to London for a publisher."</p>
Activity 1:	Have students create a rap song about Phyllis Wheatley have them to listen here as an example PHYLLISWHEATLEYRAP
Activity 2: Writing Activity	Ask students to read aloud the letter from George Washington to Phillis Wheatley GeorgeWashingtonletter discuss the letter, then Have students write a write a Rap Opera after listening to this Have students listen to PHYLLISWEATLEYWRITESTOGEORGEWASHINGTON
Activity 3: Writing Activity	Provide students with a copy of the poem written by Phyllis Wheatley to General Washington, click here HISEXCELLENCY Students will read and analyze a letter written to General Washington.
Suggested Books:	<i>A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phillis Wheatley, Slave Poet</i> by Kathryn Lasky
Web Resources	https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/phillis-wheatley

