

# African Americans in Colonial America



**Amy D. Hurst**

**Subject: Social Studies**

**Topic: African Americans in Colonial America**

**Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>**

**Lesson Length: 2 class periods**

## **OBJECTIVE:**

- 1. The students will be able to trace the beginnings of slavery in the United States to the Colonial period.**
- 2. The students will create a three-entry journal of a colonial slave using PowerPoint. The journal will include their trip to America, Slave resistance, and slave contributions to Colonial America.**

## **MATERIALS:**

**\*Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America,**  
**James Haskin and Kathleen Benson.**

**\*Computer Lab**



## Procedures:

### Day 1

Read and discuss pages 1-24 in the book, Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America. Use the following discussion questions.

- A. When did the first slaves arrive in America?
- B. What group of people did Columbus use as slaves? How did he treat them?
- C. Describe the life of the slaves and their duties in the various regions.
- D. Discuss “Antonio’s” struggle to freedom.

Create an outline of notes about important facts from the reading. Write a journal entry written by a slave about coming to American and what was expected of them once they arrived.



### Day 2

Begin the lesson by reading Aunt Harriet’s Underground Railroad in the Sky by Faith Ringgold

This book is a great way to gain the students interest.

Read and discuss pages 25-34 in the book, Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America. Use the following discussion questions.

- A. How were the slaves from Africa transported to America during the rise of the southern plantations? What were their jobs and how were the slaves treated?
- B. Why and How did the slaves revolt?

- C. Name and discuss several African traditions that the slaves would maintain.

Create an outline of notes about important facts from the reading. Write a journal entry written by a slave about why the slaves would resist their owners.



### Day 3

Read and discuss pages 35 – 41 in the book, Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America. Use the following discussion questions.

- A. How did African folklore influence the Americans?
- B. What type of medication did the Africans use?
- C. How did the Africans influence music in America?
- D. What were the roles of slaves in the French and Indian War as well the Revolutionary War?

Create the last journal entry written by a slave about contributions that they made or another slave to the colonial society.

### Day 4

Using the program PowerPoint, create an electronic journal using the entries written the three previous days. Use the rubric below to specify what is needed in their journal.

## RESOURCES:

### BOOKS

(These books need to be available for students to use as research during silent reading time. They are also excellent resources for classroom discussions. There are more books available on this topic.)

**\* Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky, Faith Ringgold, 1999**

**\*Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America, James Haskin and Kathleen Benson.**

**\*Follow the Drinking Gourd, Jeanette Winter, 1988**

**\*From Slave Ship to Freedom Road, Julius Lester, 1998**

**\*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom, Virginia Hamilton, 1993**

**\*Pink and Say, Patricia Polacco, 1994**

**\*Under the Quilt of Night, Deborah Hopkinson, 2002**

#### **OTHER**

**His Promised Land, The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former Slave and Conductor on the Underground Railroad, Edited by Stuart Seely Sprague.**

**Web quest from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center: Endangered Traditions: South Carolina and the Gullah. [www.freedomcenter.org/freedomquests](http://www.freedomcenter.org/freedomquests) This is a great site for a resource for classroom discussions to take the lessons further for older students.**

#### **ASSESSMENT:**

**Participation during class  
Power Point Journal (see rubric)**

## PowerPoint Appearance and Content : African Americans in Colonial America Journal

Teacher Name: **Mrs. Hurst**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
<b>Background</b>	Background does not detract from text or other graphics. Choice of background is consistent from card to card and is appropriate for the topic.	Background does not detract from text or other graphics. Choice of background is consistent from card to card.	Background does not detract from text or other graphics.	Background makes it difficult to see text or competes with other graphics on the page.
<b>Text - Font Choice &amp; Formatting</b>	Font formats (e.g., color, bold, italic) have been carefully planned to enhance readability and content.	Font formats have been carefully planned to enhance readability.	Font formatting has been carefully planned to complement the content. It may be a little hard to read.	Font formatting makes it very difficult to read the material.
<b>Content - Accuracy</b>	All content throughout the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors. Included all 3 entries and title page.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that might be inaccurate. Included all 3 entries and title page.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly flawed or inaccurate. Included 2 entries and title page.	Content is typically confusing or contains more than one factual error. Included one entry and title page.
<b>Spelling and Grammar</b>	Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors.	Presentation has 1-2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors.	Presentation has 1-2 grammatical errors but no misspellings.	Presentation has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.
<b>Use of Graphics</b>	All graphics are attractive (size and colors) and support the theme/content of the presentation.	A few graphics are not attractive but all support the theme/content of the presentation.	All graphics are attractive but a few do not seem to support the theme/content of the presentation.	Several graphics are unattractive AND detract from the content of the presentation.
<b>Sounds -planning</b>	Careful planning has gone into sounds. All sounds improve the content or "feel" of the presentation.	Some planning has gone into sounds. Most enhance the content or "feel" of the presentation, but 1-2 seem to be added for no real reason. None detract from the overall presentation.	Sounds that are chosen are appropriate for the topic, but some detract from the overall presentation.	Sounds are not appropriate for the presentation.

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