

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts - Black History Month

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

Title of File: 200702151a

Date: February 15, 2007

Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

DavidWe: Welcome to Tapped In, all of you

BelindaFl: thanks

KarenL joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Karen. Welcome

DavidWe: Ta-dah!

BelindaFl: woo hoo!

KarenL: Hi everyone!!!!

JaneOst: hi

CynthiaCe: hello!!

ConstantiV: hi

BelindaFl: hello Karen

DavidWe: Thanks for logging in - just beginning to come up with weather excuses

KarenL: Apologies for my tardiness. Well, weather and accidents. . .

KarenL: Thank you so much for your patience!

KarenL: Okay, before I give you my list of websites, I do want to share some print resources with you.

ConstantiV: ok

KarenL: Actually, I'm going to give you publishers names because they have a series of books on African-American History.

DavidWe: We usually begin Tapped In discussions with brief introductions - please type something brief about where you are, what you teach and what you are interested in

KarenL: Oops, I'm so sorry. Let's begin with introductions. . .

BelindaFl: I am in Houston, currently student teaching in a bilingual pre-k class

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler - I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers and I lead a math education and technology discussion here in Tapped In. I'm in northern New Jersey, near New York City

JaneOst: I teach ESL at a community college in NJ. also a student of ed tech

GaryML: I'm in San Antonio and I teach 7th grade Texas History

BelindaFl: and I'm Belinda

CynthiaCe: hi my name is Cynthia, I'm in Houston

KarenL: I'm Karen Lemmons, library media specialist in a Detroit elementary school.

CynthiaCe: I am currently student teaching in a kindergarten classroom

DavidWe gives the microphone to Karen - all yours

ConstantiV: I am Constantino from Kingsville TX

DavidWe smiles

KarenL: Welcome, Texas folks! I hope the weather is better in Texas than Michigan!

BelindaFl: thanks! it's cool but sunny

CynthiaCe: thanks

KarenL: Okay, let's begin with print resources, which are often neglected for the internet.

KarenL: I'm going to list some publishers because they have published series of African-American biographies and series of African American History.

BelindaFl: sounds good

CynthiaCe: ok

ConstantiV: ok

KarenL: Enslow is one of the leading publishers of African-American biographies. Most of them have been written by Patricia and Frederick McKissack, a dynamic duo when it comes to nonfiction.

KarenL: If I go too fast, let me know.

KarenL: Other publishers include Franklin Watts and Children's Press, under the umbrella of Scholastic.

KarenL: African American History resources.

MervilT: great topic!

KarenL: These two publishers have published a series on the Great Kings and Queens of Africa. Children's Press has begun to publish a wonderful African-American biography collection for beginning readers.

ConstantiV: hello

BarylM: There is a website entitled blackhistorycelebration.com with a plethora of information books, dvds, paraphernalia, and children's' books from k-adult

KarenL: My kindergarten teachers love the beginning biographies. Very simple text, excellent illustrations.

ConstantiV: ok

KarenL: Baryl, can you retype that website, so all of us can see it?

CynthiaCe: sounds like something I could use with my students now!!

MervilT: That's great. I have been looking for information on Black History that I could present to my Pre-K students.

JoyceK: I am enjoying the black history quote during morning announcements where I teach

KarenL: Okay!

MervilT: What's the quote?

BarylM: The only time we ever did anything for bh during the year was when Rosa Parks died

JoyceK: one of the quotes was about Spike Lee, the movies that he did, and his life thus far

KarenL: Good resource, Baryl, thanks for sharing. .

KarenL: Hmmm, that is a powerful quote. . .

BarylM: Tom Joyner does 365 black he does a quote every morning.

JoyceK: yes I was surprised that he was one of the bh featured

BarylM: why?

KarenL: But really, for the kindergarteners, check out Children's Press for the beginning or rookie biographies. They are excellent.

KarenL: Now, for the websites. These websites I have listed include so many resources that you should probably bookmark them.

JoyceK: because first of all he is still alive

BelindaFl: thanks for the tip Karen

KarenL: Now, I will say, most of them are for the upper elementary to high school. But, I'm elementary and I adapt the resources to the younger students.

MervilT: What grade do you teach?

KarenL: My first one is American Memory. This collection has some original documents and it is worth exploring. I'm a librarian, so I teach K-5 and special ed.

CynthiaCe: original documents...interesting!!

KarenL: Hopefully, I have the correct link.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?category=African%20American%20History>

DavidWe . o O (American Memory Project at the Library of Congress is GREAT!)

JoyceK: Great resource guys

JaneOst: Looks really interesting

MateenD: sorry...just entered....what is the American Memory Project?

BarylM: That is a lot of info!

MervilT: What lesson have you taught that would benefit my Pre-K children (black history)?

ConstantiV: yes it is

KimberlyCS: This is a great resource

BarylM: I taught prek we just taught them songs and introduced MLK

MateenD: wow...that is interesting

GaryML: wow this is pretty neat

MervilT: Was that the only person you all discussed during that time?

KarenL: Mervil, I have usually done biographies, but I also have done the Ruby Bridges story and touched on segregation.

ConstantiV: pretty cool

MervilT: Did the children seem to enjoy it?

KarenL: I try to do more than Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman. I like to include some other lesser known people, like some artists.

ConstantiV: ok cool

KarenL: Yes, they do, and they ask lots of questions. I pick artists because some of my kindergarten students like to draw and so I like to feature some African-American artists.

BarylM: When I taught segregation to younger children I didn't do skin color. I did eye color.

CynthiaCe: Ruby Bridges is a great story to share with students, and it's a great way to integrate art

BelindaFl: How did you do that Baryl?

KarenL: How am I doing, so far?

BarylM: I said blue eyes sit over here and brown eyes sit over there. That is segregation

BelindaFl: Ah simple enough!

MervilT: Very good idea!

BelindaFl: Yeah I like that idea Baryl

KarenL: In our school, our students wear uniforms, so we can do white shirts or blue shirts. . .

ConstantiV: that's a good idea

JoyceK: Great that way you add versatility to the bh project you teach

MateenD: I think that story was presented on 60 minutes several years ago Baryl

MateenD: blue eyes etc...

MateenD: very eye opening

BelindaFl: I wonder how it would affect my students since all of them have brown eyes except for one student

MateenD: no pun intended

KarenL: Can you use clothes, Belinda? Do the students wear uniforms?

BarylM: nope.

BarylM: I wish they did.

BelindaFl: Actually they don't but I was just thinking that maybe we could even separate them according to shoes (tennis vs. dress)

BarylM: Uniforms still doesn't solve the problem

MateenD: use long hair...short hair

BarylM: Last year it was a dispute over tennis shoes, hair ribbons, and belts because the children would match the colors.

BarylM: (with uniforms)

BelindaFl: I like the long hair vs. short hair

KarenL: True. . ., you could give them a piece of paper, some students could have one color paper, the other students could have a different color.

MervilT: What ideas do you have for me? All of my students have brown eyes, they are all right handed, they do not wear uniforms, and they are all African Americans.

BarylM: That is difficult

KarenL: I'm trying to remember what the Social Studies teacher did. I think he used uniforms because about 99% of the students that day wore uniforms.

CynthiaCe: what about boys/girls??

BarylM: They normally get angry. I showed Remember the Titans and they were screaming at the television.

ConstantiV: ok

MateenD: oh..light skin dark skin

KarenL: That's what he did!!! He did boys/girls. . .

JoyceK: you are in a rock and a hard place

KaledaW: I just came into the discussion. Can someone tell me what is being discussed?

BarylM: Light skin/ dark skin is a slavery mentality taught by William Lynch

KarenL: African -American resources. . . , but we're talking about segregation right now.

MateenD: yea I know...but she could use it in her lesson

KaledaW: Thanks

MateenD: that perception is still alive today

BelindaFl: yeah it sure is Mateen

KarenL: Okay, let's get back to some more resources. True, Mateen.

BarylM: YES!

JaneOst: I developed a writing and reading course focused on "Having Our Say", a book of nonfiction focused on the Delaney sisters, who lived for more than 100 years. It helps provide my ESL students with over 100 years of American history from the civil war to Reconstruction to Jim Crow to civil rights to affirmative action.

KarenL: My next one is the African American Web Connection.
<http://www.aawc.com/aah.html>

ConstantiV: ok

JaneOst: looks great also

BarylM: I like the fact that it (aawc.com) is current.

MateenD: great site

ConstantiV: yes it is

ConstantiV: very interesting

GaryML: nice site

KaledaW: I teach in a small Southern town in a school that is mainly African-American. However, we do not do anything to acknowledge Black History Month. I am at a lost as to what I can do with my students without stepping on any toes. Do any of you have any suggestions?

BarylM: forget toes this is their history.

DavidWe is interested in Kaleda's question

BelindaFl: I agree Baryl

KarenL: Kaleda, trust me, you're going to step on toes period. Baryl is correct. Teach the history because our students do not know it.

BelindaFl: teach it no matter what

ConstantiV: ok

MateenD: yes yes Karen

BarylM: Encourage them to be excited about reading because there was a time when it was illegal for African Americans to be able to read

BelindaFl: they deserve to know the history

ConstantiV: ok

MateenD: man...that's right Baryl..

BarylM: it's also AMERICAN history. Remember the melting pot.

JaneOst: absolutely!!

GaryML: make a few powerpoint presentations on people you think are important for them to know

KarenL: If you start with Egypt and the pyramids, talk about the civil rights movement, and other pivotal events--Harlem Renaissance, you'll do well.

BarylM: incorporate jazz into hip hop

BarylM: it's all the same

MateenD: wish ya'll taught in my school

CynthiaCe: I don't see how you be stepping on any ones toes by teaching it, it is something they need to learn about

KaledaW: I do too.

KarenL: All too often, our students seem to think our history is just slavery because that is all some of us have taught for black history month.

ConstantiV: ok

BelindaFl: absolutely Karen

KarenL: So they tire of the usual heroes, and they will become interested in more, when we share more.

MateenD: that and Dr. King and Rosa Parks (no dis)

KarenL: When I told my students about the sit-ins, my students couldn't believe that some black men sat at a counter all day waiting to be served.

KarenL: For the males, that was a powerful message.

DavidWe: Karen, did you see NOVA recently - the one about Percy Julian - REMARKABLE!

MateenD: my secretary's daughter was suspended for kicking another student who called her a b(*&

BarylM: when I taught bh I said this year I don't want to know about MLK or Malcolm X tell me about your mother, mail man, pastor, city council member.

JoyceK: yes I saw it it was great.

MateenD: her mother made her watch Eyes on the Prize

KaledaW: Race is a very touchy subject in this town. However, I do agree with you all that it is a part of history that all students should know. Not just African-American students.

KarenL: And, for us, our school is right across the street from Dr. Ossian Sweet's house. He defended living in his house against all odds.

MateenD: to see what our people had to endure while being called names

KarenL: Yes, it should be integrated into American history, but nowadays, if African-American history is not included on those state assessments, sometimes that content will not be taught.

KarenL: Eyes on the Prize is an excellent series.

JaneOst: That's terrible!

BarylM: I heard about the Eyes on the Prize

MateenD: u never seen it Baryl?

KarenL: Okay, another resource is the National Register of Historic Places. I have two.

MateenD: its an owner

CynthiaCe: can you tell me more about Eyes on the Prize?

BarylM: it was good

KarenL: The first one is general. The second one is directly tied to the Civil Rights movement.

MateenD: chronicles AA history from Slavery to the Present

MateenD: well..almost the present

KarenL: It was/is published by PBS. I'm not sure if the videos are available, but I believe you may be able to view some of the resources online at pbs.org

JeffC: I taught "Eyes on the Prize" before...

CynthiaCe: ok, thanks

MateenD: order the DVD on Ebay

JeffC: The students did get bored after a while... you really need to *not show the videos non-stop*.

MateenD: ur right Jeff

KarenL: Okay, the National Register. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/afam>

BarylM: Video reports are beneficial

ConstantiV: cool

BarylM: You review it before viewing make up questions and WHILE they take the test they fill in the blank

BarylM: OR they take notes. It makes them listen. I used to do it on Fridays. THEY LOVED IT

BarylM: no matter what the subject.

ConstantiV: ok

MateenD: see ya'll...gotta head to PTA

MateenD: great convo

BarylM: bye

MervilT: You could place the video in a center and allow a group to watch about 30 minutes of the video.

MateenD left the room (signed off).

JaneOst: can't access the last site

BelindaFl: that's a good idea Mervil

KarenL: my other website from the National Park Service is from the We Shall Overcome series. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/>

ConstantiV: ok

JaneOst: thanks Belinda

BelindaFl: no problem

KarenL: Thanks, David.

KarenL: Now, if you have some tech savvy students or some "scholarly" ones, I recommend the following.

JoyceK: Karen I will go to pbs. and look for it

JaneOst: the photos are amazing

DavidWe . o O (you're welcome, Karen...for...?)

KarenL: assisting, of course!!!

JoyceK: I would like to see the pictures

DavidWe bows humbly

KarenL: If you click on the sites, you should see the pictures and the text.

ConstantiV: yes

KarenL: Okay, At&T has a website that allows teachers to create their own internet assignment. Using a program called Filamentality, teachers can select sites that students will have to view in order to answer questions.

JoyceK: I'm already impressed

MervilT: The pictures are really great.

JoyceK: great

BelindaFl: Karen that's awesome - what's the website?

KarenL: You'll see what I mean with this next website. It is <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/index.html>

BelindaFl: there it goes!

JaneOst: are they webquests

ConstantiV: ok

BJB2: Jane, filamentality is more web hunts/treasure hunts

BarylM: I'm loving it

MervilT: Great Site!!!

BJB2 . o O (there is a WebQuest discussion with Bernie Dodge on February 21)

KarenL: some of them are, depending on how the teacher has designed them.

DavidWe encourages everyone who can to attend Bernie Dodge's discussion

BelindaFl: thanks BJB

BelindaFl: I'm definitely looking into it

CynthiaCe: sounds interesting

KarenL: Really, if you have some high achievers, challenge them to do a webquest. It is more layered, collaborative, uses higher order thinking skills.

JaneOst: really great site!!

BJB2: Before Karen brings the discussion to an end, a reminder that the next Language Arts discussion is on March 15

KarenL: For you scholarly folks, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is an excellent resource. It is a part of the New York Public Library System, located in Harlem. It has wonderful resources.

KarenL: That website is

<http://www.ny.com/museums/schomburg.center.for.research.in.black.culture.html>

JaneOst: There is so much to work with!!

DavidWe: Have you read any of Taylore Branch's 3 part work on MLK, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement, Karen?

JoyceK: yes but a lot of good information here

KarenL: I started reading one of them, but had to put it down, unfortunately.

KarenL: He is a great historian.

DavidWe: <http://www.taylorbranch.com/about/index.html>

DavidWe: Parting the Waters (vol. 1) is amazing

DavidWe: He just has heard more stories than most of us

KarenL: Yes, what I read was excellent. Need to return to it.

JoyceK: we are looking at the cite now

GaryML: I'm sorry I have to run, but thank you for all the great sites I can use!

DavidWe: Can I mention one thing, Karen?

KarenL: Yes, before everyone else leaves!

DavidWe: Did you know the connection between John D. Rockefeller and MLK, Jr?

KarenL: No, I didn't. What is the connection?

DavidWe: Mrs. Rockefeller's family name was Spellman

KarenL: Oh, I see. . .

DavidWe: Rockefeller bought the land and endowed Morehouse and Spellman

BarylM: wow

JoyceK: I see as well

DavidWe: I never knew that until I read "Parting the Waters"

KarenL: and Spellman is the name of one of hbcus.

KarenL: wow!

DavidWe: Mrs. Rockefeller's teachers had moved from Cleveland to Atlanta after the Civil War

DavidWe: They came back to the BAPTIST church that Rockefeller attended with his family

DavidWe: . o O (BAPTIST!)

BarylM: sooooo interesting

DavidWe: They appealed for funds for the school they had begun in Atlanta for black children

KarenL: very interesting Baptist!!!

DavidWe: That started it

KarenL: wow!!!!

DavidWe: yes

JoyceK: yes very interesting

BarylM: I always wanted to go to that school as I child

DavidWe smiles

BarylM: it's expensive

KarenL: so did I. I attended a university here in Detroit. Money. . .

BarylM: I went to Stillman in Alabama. That's close in name..haha

KarenL smiles.

DavidWe: The first time I went to a Baptist church, in Chester, PA on a hot summer day in 1978 (I was the only white person), I learned that MLK, Jr. had first worked at the Calvary Baptist Church - he had gone to seminary in Chester, PA

MervilT: I attended Stillman too.

DavidWe went to Stillman Elementary School

JoyceK: I went to Stillman, just located in my home town

DavidWe . o O (in New Jersey)

KarenL: Well, people, it's time to go. Thank you so much for coming, your input. I hope these websites were/are helpful to you.

BarylM: cool.

BelindaFl: they definitely were Karen

BelindaFl: thank you so much!

DavidWe: Good job, Karen

BarylM: THANKX

CynthiaCe: they are very useful

MervilT: Thanks!

KarenL humbly bows.

CynthiaCe: I am glad I found websites I can use with my kindergarten class

CynthiaCe: thanks!!

ConstantiV: thank you and bye