

Spirituals and Freedom Songs: Coded Communication

Lesson Title: “It All Adds Up to Freedom”

Essential Question related to Vital Theme: Why did it take one hundred years for African Americans to be set free? What events occurred in this process that made their freedom finally a reality one hundred years later?

Lesson Time: One – three fifty-minute class periods

Curriculum Standards Addressed: §113.23 (7c) Social Studies, Grade 7; §113.24 (7c, 13b) Social Studies, Grade 8

Technology used and how: Internet for research, textbooks, and sources found in Library

Materials: Adding machine, tape, computer, paper, books, colored pencils, markers and/or crayons, “The Struggle for Civil Rights: A Timeline” on <http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/nhhs/projective/time.htm> (optional), journal

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

1. Instruct students to research for a timeline on the Internet or in a book. They might also want to combine the sources for a complete sequence of events. Use the website listed above to help and fill in the decades with other information.
2. Using adding machine tape, students will develop a timeline that paraphrases important events. Each decade is to be depicted beginning with 1860 –1870. They need to note the key players and themes of the dates.
3. Encourage students to make their timeline colorful and to draw pictures that get the reader’s attention. NOTE: These do not need to be detailed, just sketches.
4. As students progress through the process, comment to each decade and ask questions along the way to 1960 – 1970.

Supporting Assignments/Homework: Have students use the first of the class on each day to reflect on something they learned from constructing their timelines. They might want to comment on a question they have about the time period.

Assessment: Use the timeline and journal reflections for assessment.