

Penguin Young Readers Group

Who
Was?

series

Core Curriculum Lesson Plans

whowasbookseries.com

All activities meet **COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**
for grades 3–6

MAKING CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

INSPIRE · ENGAGE · EDUCATE



4. FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICANS

Teachers: Read one of the *Who Was...?* books about a famous African American (examples: Barack Obama, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman) or assign a specific book to the class for independent reading. Once you have read the book and/or have a general understanding of the person's life, try the following activities:

NEWS REPORTER (WRITING): Students will be referring to specific historical events in their *Who Was...?* African American's life. Talk about what defines an event. Talk collectively about certain school events or events in your specific community, so that the students understand the components of an event.

ASK STUDENTS TO:

- o Determine a specific historical event to re-create in your own words:
 - Determine the facts
 - Create a fictional perspective
- o Imagine what it would have been like if they had been at an event related to their *Who Was...?* African American
- o Offer a secondhand account of a related historical event:
 - For example: You were in the audience when Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Who were you? How were you feeling based on your background?
- o Compare and contrast different secondhand accounts from their classmates with the factual summary of this same event
- o Use Keynote on a Mac or PowerPoint from Microsoft Office to create a presentation and share it with the entire class

Common Core State Standards (Writing): RI.4.6., RI.5.6., RI.6.6., W.4.5., W.5.5., W.6.5., L.5.2., L.4.2., L.6.2.

WHO'S THE REAL HISTORICAL FIGURE? (PERFORMANCE): The students will be performing a game show. Ask them to talk about what they know about game shows, establishing their background knowledge. Build upon this knowledge with a few new facts about the setup and performance aspects of it.

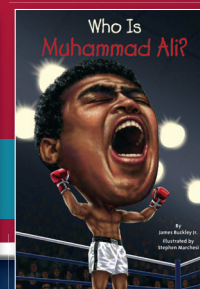
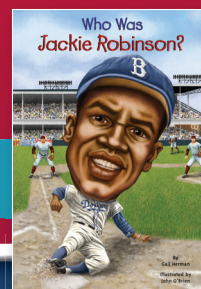
ASK STUDENTS TO:

- o Choose a *Who Was...?* African American and research information about his or her childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and notable quotes using the *Who Was...?* biography and related digital sources
- o Set up a game show!
 - Game Show Setup: Four students claim to be the real _____, but only one is telling the truth. The students playing the impostors must create false, but plausible, answers based on research from their historical figure's time. For example, Rosa Parks would not be discussing her Skype with Harriet Tubman for two reasons: A.) The technology was not invented yet and B.) They lived in two separate time periods. One student acts as the game-show host as peers question the panelists to figure out who is the real historical figure.

Common Core State Standards (Performance): W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4., SL.4.1., SL.5.1., SL.6.1.



HARRIET TUBMAN



12. MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Teachers: Here are some miscellaneous general activities that apply to any and all of the books in the *Who Was...?* series.

WHO WAS GUESSING GAME:

- Make this game interactive and FUN by photocopying book covers for your students. Keep them **face down** and each student will have a turn picking up the book cover and taping it to their forehead (without seeing who their famous figure is). Classmates will then provide clues for the person until they have enough information to guess who they are.

Common Core State Standards (Writing and Performance): W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4., W. 4.6., W.5.6., W.6.6, SL.4.4., SL.5.4., SL.6.4.

YOU WERE THERE (WRITING):

- Students imagine what it would have been like if they had been at an event related to their *Who Was...?* figure
- Determine the main idea of the event, summarize key details based on their unique perspectives, and offer a secondhand account of a historical event in narrative form. Example: You were in the audience when Abraham Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address. Who were you? How were you feeling based on your background? Compare and contrast with a factual summary of this event

Common Core State Standards (Writing): RI.4.2., RI.5.2., W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

WHO AM I? (WRITING):

- Teacher creates a bank of historical figures that all students must research
- Each student is assigned (secretly) a historical figure to play
- Classmates ask yes/no questions in order to reveal the identity of the historical figure

Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.4.9., W.5.9., W.6.9., SL.4.1., SL.5.1., SL.6.1.

TIMELINE TECHNOLOGY (WRITING AND TECHNOLOGY):

- Students use xtimeline (www.xtimeline.com) to re-create the timelines of their *Who Was...?* biographies

Common Core State Standards (Writing and Technology): RI.4.7., RI.5.7., RI.6.7.

RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (WRITING AND TECHNOLOGY):

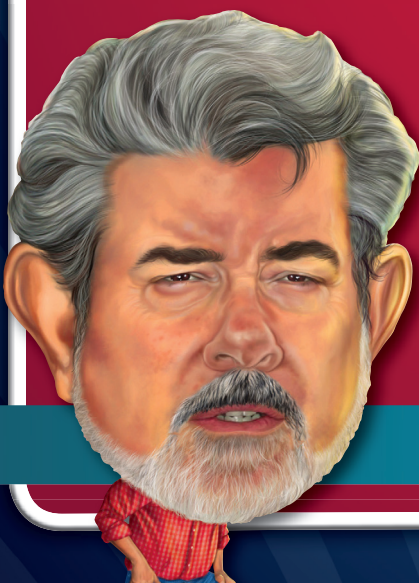
- Students present research on their *Who Was...?* figures, using Prezi (www.prezi.com)
- Add sound, music, video, and clip art to create a dynamic presentation for the class

Common Core State Standards (Writing and Technology): W.4.7., W.5.7., W.6.7., W.4.6., W.5.6., W.6.6.

WORD JUMBLE TECHNOLOGY (WRITING AND TECHNOLOGY):

- Students brainstorm words that describe their *Who Was...?* figures and create a master list
- Upload the lists to Wordle (www.wordle.net) to create interesting word art

Common Core State Standards (Writing and Technology): W.4.6., W.5.6., W.6.6.



COLLECT THEM ALL!



- Who Was Abigail Adams?
- Who Was Abraham Lincoln?
- Who Was Albert Einstein?
- Who Was Alexander Graham Bell?
- Who Was Amelia Earhart?
- Who Was Anne Frank?
- Who Was Annie Oakley?
- Who Was Babe Ruth?
- Who Is Barack Obama?
- Who Were the Beatles?
- Who Was Ben Franklin?
- Who Is Bill Gates?
- Who Is Bob Dylan?
- Who Was Bruce Lee?
- Who Was Charles Darwin?
- Who Was Christopher Columbus?
- Who Was Clara Barton?
- Who Was Claude Monet?
- Who Was Daniel Boone?
- Who Was Davy Crockett?
- Who Is Dolly Parton?
- Who Was Dr. Seuss?
- Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt?
- Who Was Elvis Presley?
- Who Was Ernest Shackleton?

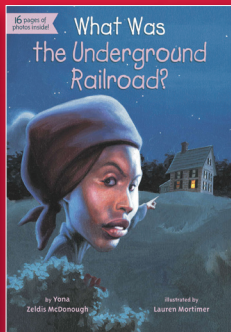
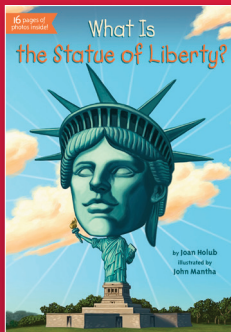
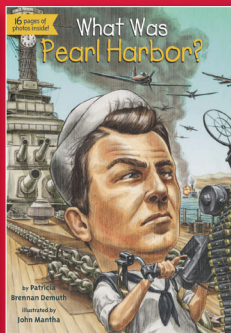
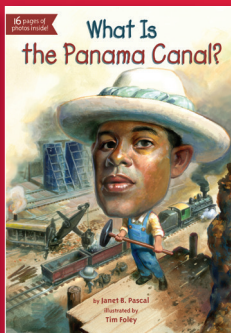
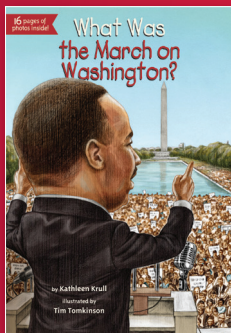
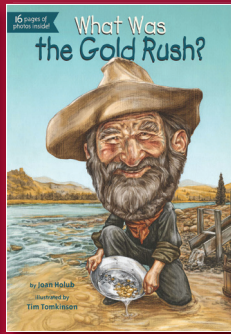
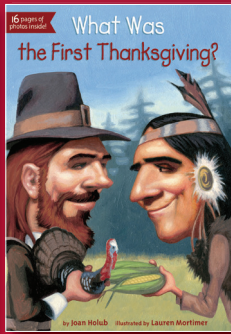
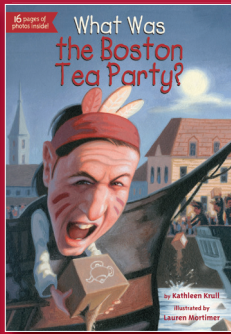
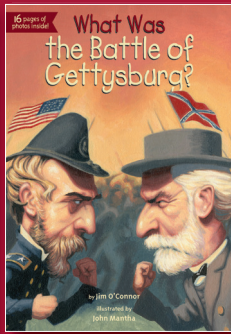
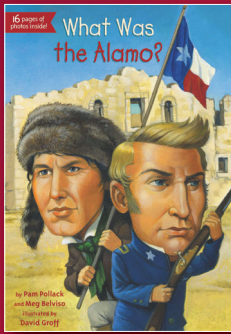
- Who Was Ferdinand Magellan?
- Who Was Franklin Roosevelt?
- Who Was Frida Kahlo?
- Who Is George Lucas?
- Who Was George Washington?
- Who Was Harriet Tubman?
- Who Was Harry Houdini?
- Who Was Helen Keller?
- Who Is J.K. Rowling?
- Who Was Jackie Robinson?
- Who Is Jane Goodall?
- Who Was Jim Henson?
- Who Was John F. Kennedy?
- Who Was Johnny Appleseed?
- Who Was King Tut?
- Who Was Laura Ingalls Wilder?
- Who Was Leonardo da Vinci?
- Who Was Louis Armstrong?
- Who Was Louis Braille?
- Who Was Marco Polo?
- Who Was Maria Tallychief?
- Who Was Marie Curie?
- Who Was Mark Twain?
- Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
- Who Was Maurice Sendak?

- Who Is Michelle Obama?
- Who Was Milton Hershey?
- Who Is Muhammad Ali?
- Who Was Neil Armstrong?
- Who Was Nelson Mandela?
- Who Was Pablo Picasso?
- Who Was Paul Revere?
- Who Was Queen Elizabeth?
- Who Was Queen Victoria?
- Who Was Roald Dahl?
- Who Was Robert E. Lee?
- Who Was Ronald Reagan?
- Who Was Rosa Parks?
- Who Was Sacagawea?
- Who Was Sally Ride?
- Who Was Steve Jobs?
- Who Is Steven Spielberg?
- Who Was Theodore Roosevelt?
- Who Was Thomas Alva Edison?
- Who Was Thomas Jefferson?
- Who Was Ulysses S. Grant?
- Who Was Walt Disney?
- Who Was William Shakespeare?
- Who Was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?
- Who Were the Wright Brothers?



What Was?

DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS



THE COMPANION SERIES TO

Who Was?

For more guides and available resources in the classroom, visit penguinclassroom.com

