

Lesson Plan #1 for *Genius of Freedom*: Adorn-a-Parlor Lesson by Liz Taylor

Grade level: Upper elementary and middle school

Topics: Social history, African American leaders

Pennsylvania History Standards: 8.1.6 B, 8.1.9 B, 8.2.9 A, 8.2.9 B

Pennsylvania Core Standards: 8.5.6-8 G

***African American History*, Prentice Hall textbook:** N/A

Overview: This is a quick activity meant to get students thinking about African American families after the Civil War. Often, discussions of African American history in the classroom neglect to mention families, class structure, or other important elements of the human experience. This activity uses images from *Genius of Freedom* to ask students to pay particular attention to images selected by African Americans to hang in their parlors, or living rooms. It also involves the students in history by making them choose their favorite of the proffered images.

Materials Needed:

1. "Colored Beauty"
2. "Children's Day" More information is provided at <http://librarycompany.blogspot.com/2014/11/reconstructing-fragments-of-african.html>
3. "Distinguished Colored Men"
4. "Bishops of AME Church" More information is provided at <https://hsp.org/history-online/exhibits/richard-allen-apostle-of-freedom/late-life-and-ministry>
5. "Heroes of the Colored Race" More on this lithograph from <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/00651114/>.
6. Assorted portraits

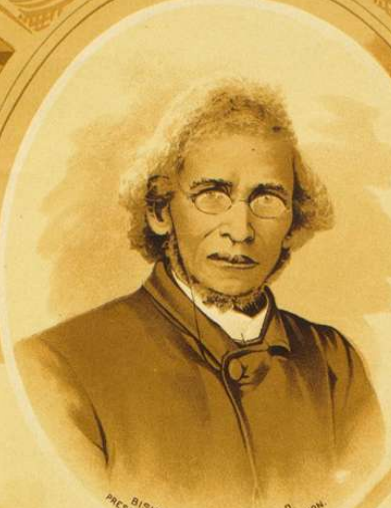
Procedures:

1. Ask the whole class what sorts of images hang in their living rooms. Entertain answers and comments from the students.
2. Ask students to imagine what images people might have hung in their houses in the late nineteenth century.
3. Project the six images and discuss each.
4. Students will work in pairs to choose which of the images, of the above listed six, they would like to hang in their parlor, if they were an African American family in the North after the Civil War. Students should also provide a rationale for their choice. Students should answer the questions: Who is in the image? Why are they pictured? Why did you choose it instead of the other images?
5. Students will briefly (1-2 minutes) present their choices, and as they talk, the teacher will project the images so that the students not presenting can examine the pictures in depth.
6. Extension activity: students can design their own image to hang in their parlor and should include an appropriate caption that mimics what they observed on the historical images.



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THE COLORED BEAUTY.



BISHOP D. A. PAYNE, D.D., L.L.D.
PRESIDENT OF A.M.E. SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.



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EASTERN QUEEN OF CHILDREN'S DAY.



MRS. IDA JENKINS, INDEPENDENCE, MO.
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NORTHERN QUEEN OF CHILDREN'S DAY.



REV. C. S. SMITH,
FOUNDER OF THE A.M.E. SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.



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SOUTHERN QUEEN OF CHILDREN'S DAY.

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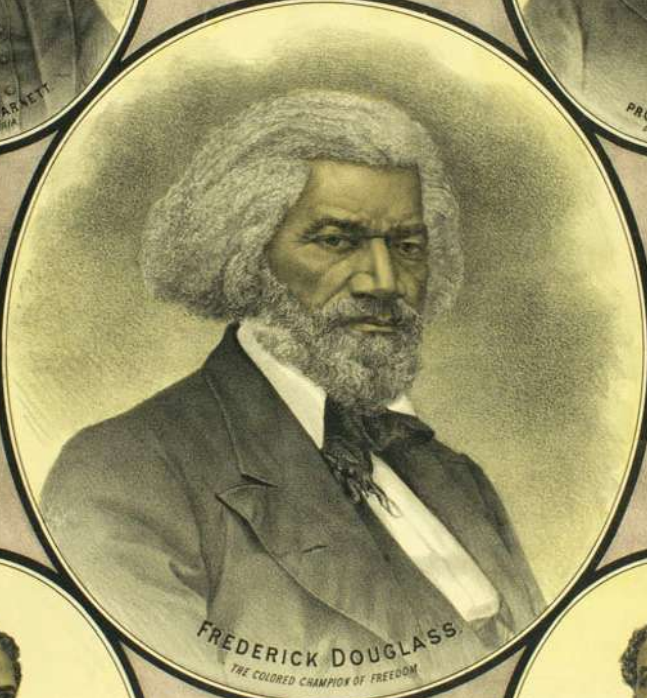
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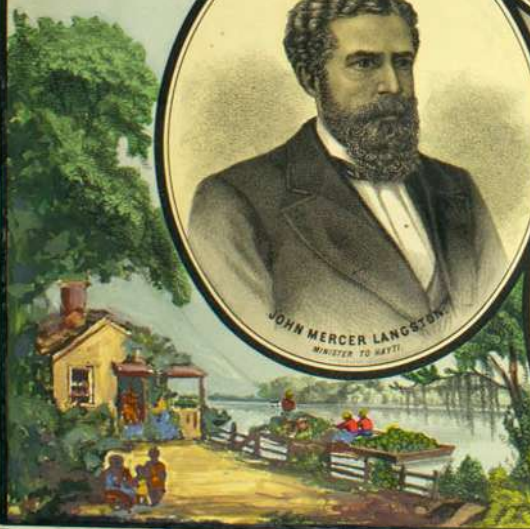
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