

Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners: Sample Social Studies Learning Plan

Big Idea/ Topic

- Reconstruction Refresher Connecting
- Theme/Enduring Understanding: Conflict & Change: The student will understand that when there is conflict between or within societies, change is the result.
- Conflict Resolution: The student will understand that societies resolve conflicts through legal procedures, force, and/or compromise.
- Essential Question: How did Reconstruction change people’s lives? How did developments during Reconstruction echo in the years afterwards?

Standard Alignment

SS4H6 Analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life.

- a. Describe the purpose of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.
- b. Explain the work of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen’s Bureau).
- c. Explain how slavery was replaced by sharecropping and how freed African Americans or Blacks were prevented from exercising their newly won rights.
- d. Describe the effects of Jim Crow laws and practices.

Connection to Literacy Standards for Social Studies and Social Studies Matrices ELAGSE4RI1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

- ELAGSE4RI2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
- ELAGSE4RI3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
- ELAGSE4RI4: Determine the meaning of general academic language and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
- ELAGSE4RI5: Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
- ELAGSE4RI9: Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- ELAGSE4W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- ELAGSE4W7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Advanced Research

Write a “Breaking News” story related to the period of Reconstruction. If available, allow students to create a green screen news report for with an appropriate background using green screen technology.

Communication

Find articles for students to read that relate to the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Create graphic organizers to explain these amendments.

Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

Have debate. Divide the class into teams and have half of them research side 1: (1) The Freedmen’s Bureau was effective in providing for the wants and needs of formerly enslaved persons; and the other half will research side 2: (2) The Freedmen’s Bureau was ineffective in providing for the wants and needs of formerly enslaved persons. Various teams will defend their positions.

Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills

Create a Digital or Physical Scrapbook compiling pictures, phrases, quotes, etc. from the period of Reconstruction. Directions for the scrapbook and scoring rubric are on page 5.

Awareness of Self—Student’s Well-being

Use a free video creation program to create a video highlighting the 13th, 14th, or 15th Amendment. Use a rubric to guide students to create an effective and meaningful video. This project could be done in groups or independently.

Digital Scrapbook Assignment

The requirements for your digital scrapbook are as follows:

- Select digital photos or create your own drawings or comics or memes to represent the period of reconstruction.
 - Slide 1: Title Page-Includes your name and a title for your scrapbook
 - Photo Pages/slides (you should have 7-14 pages/slides)
 - Include one caption per slide or page with a minimum of 3 sentences. At least 2 quotes should be included somewhere in your project.
 - Add clipart, sounds, or other images to support your slides or scrapbook pages.
 - Last Slide/Page: Include your references for information and media.
- Be prepared to present your scrapbook to the class.
 - Your presentation should be 2 to 5 minutes in length.
 - Do not simply read your pages to the class. Explain your rationale for selecting photos and how they relate to the period of reconstruction.
 - Make frequent eye contact with the audience.
 - Speak clearly and be sure your audience can hear you.

Rubric for Evaluating the Scrapbook

Project Component	Excellent 18-20 points	Satisfactory 10-19 points	Needs Improvement 0-9 points
Title Page	Required components are included and the title engages the audience	Required components are included	1 or more missing components
Content Pages (Photos)	Photos are in a logical arrangement and are placed in a meaningful manner in 7 to 14 pages	Appropriate use of photos on 7 to 14 pages	Minimal use of photos on less than 7 content pages or more than 14 pages
Captions & Quotations	Captions and quotations enhance the page and overall project	Captions and quotations are included and support the project	Captions and/or quotations are distracting or missing
Reference Page	The references citations are complete on the reference page in alphabetical order	The references are included	The reference page is missing or includes a partial list of citations
Presentation	The presentation engages the audience within the time limit	The presentation is lacking in one area (eye contact, time limit, speaking tone, rationale)	The presentation is lacking in 2 or more areas (eye contact, time limit, speaking tone, rationale)