



African American Railroading Legacy

Post-Visit Lesson

Grades: 8th grade

Class Time Needed: 45 minutes

Big Idea Students will understand how African Americans have played an important role in the history of the railroad.

Maryland Curriculum Standards

Social Studies Framework

- Essential Question (8th grade): How did regional tensions challenge national unity?
- Essential Question (8th grade): How does war impact and change society?
- Essential Question (8th grade): How does a nation reconcile past injustices?

Materials Needed

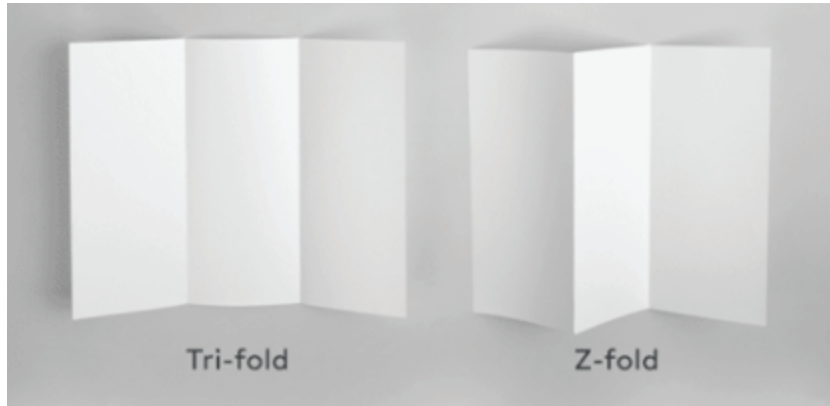
Each student needs:

- Pencil
- Coloring utensils (examples: markers, colored pencils, crayons)
- Plain white paper
- Ruler (optional)
- Magazine/ Newspaper clippings (optional)



Teacher Resources

- Folding options for “pamphlet” styles



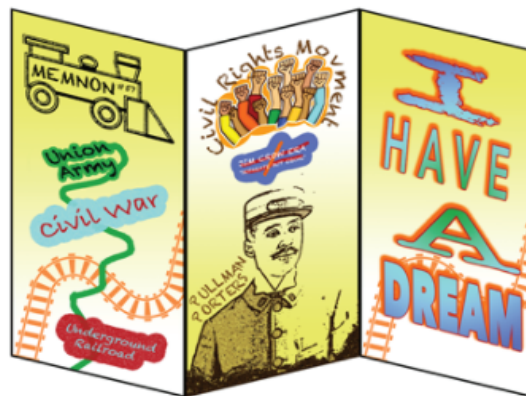
- Template for “zine” style

<https://womenwriteaboutcomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/one-page-zine-template.png>

- Instructions for “zine” construction

<https://www.okeeffemuseum.org/education/creative-activities/make-a-zine/>

- Example of completed project



Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Discuss with students what they learned or experienced during the B&O Railroad Museum Field Trip. Encourage students to identify themes or figures that they remember. Discuss how understanding events in the past can help us move forward in the present



Lesson Procedure Continued

Direct Instruction (Student Activity):

Introduce the pamphlet activity by showing examples and allowing students to brainstorm words/images they can use to express their understanding and connection with African American history and the railroad.

Allow students time to brainstorm and sketch illustrations and words they would like to incorporate on their pamphlet. These words/images can connect to major events in history (such as the Underground Railroad and slavery, the American Civil War, Jim Crow and segregation era, the Civil Rights Movement) or today (such as the Black Lives Matter movement).

Once students have a basic idea of their design, provide examples of different options for folding. When finished folding, students can decorate their pamphlets with writing and coloring utensils available to them.

Conclusion:

Once students finish their pamphlets, allow them to exchange ideas with the following discussion questions:

- What words, images or content stood out to you the most?
- What leaders from history or today have made an impact on you?
- What role do I have in today's society in promoting the legacy of African Americans in the United States?

