

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



3. INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

Teachers: Read one of the *Who Was...?* books about a famous woman (examples: Anne Frank, Michelle Obama, Amelia Earhart, Sacagawea, Helen Keller, Jane Goodall) 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:

HOW AM I LIKE...? (WRITING): Students will be writing paragraphs based on a prompt you provide. Look at examples of the prompts in books and newspapers to model how the students should adopt the writing style.

ASK STUDENTS TO:

- o Work in groups to analyze and determine the traits of a *Who Was...?* woman or women with a teacher-created cloze:
 - Example: If I were Queen Elizabeth, I would like to _____. I would be friends with _____ because _____.

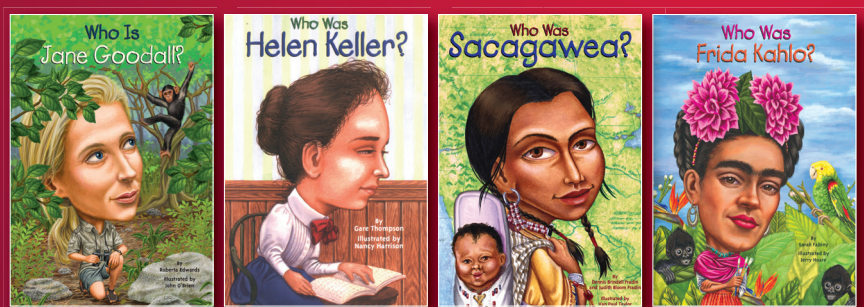
Common Core State Standards (Writing): SL.4.1., SL.5.1., SL.6.1.

WHO WAS...? CONNECTIONS (WRITING, RESEARCH, AND MUSIC): Students will be comparing and contrasting to make sure they understand the concept. Model a compare/contrast list and keep it visible during this writing assignment so the students can refer to it.

ASK STUDENTS TO:

- o Write down key details about their *Who Was...?* woman that they learned in the biographies
- o Research their *Who Was...?* woman on the Internet, and in available book sources
- o Use key details about their *Who Was...?* women and compare and contrast those details with related information from other texts and digital sources
- o Analyze and determine who is most like their *Who Was...?* woman today and why
- o Create a poem or song about the two individuals and how they relate
 - Encourage them to make connections with a famous person today, or someone they know personally
- o Share this information as a digital slideshow presentation (www.animoto.com) and discuss it with their peers

Common Core State Standards (Writing, Research, and Music): W.4.1., W.5.1., W.6.1.



MICHELLE OBAMA



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:

- o 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):

- o Students imagine what it would have been like if they had been at an event related to their *Who Was...?* figure
- o 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):

- o Teacher creates a bank of historical figures that all students must research
- o Each student is assigned (secretly) a historical figure to play
- o 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):

- o 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):

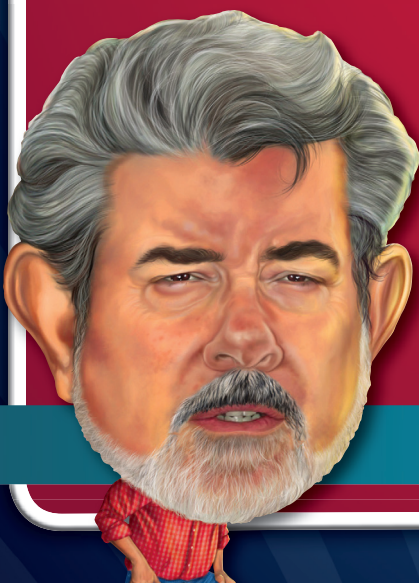
- o Students present research on their *Who Was...?* figures, using Prezi (www.prezi.com)
- o Add sound, music, video, and clip art to create a dynamic presentation for the class

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):

- o Students brainstorm words that describe their *Who Was...?* figures and create a master list
- o 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!

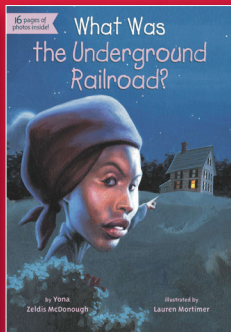
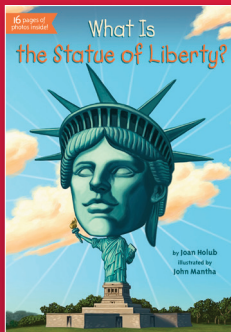
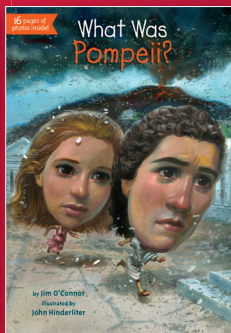
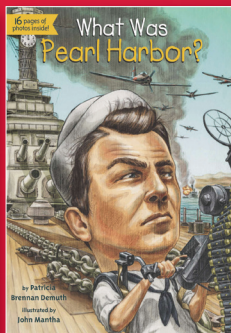
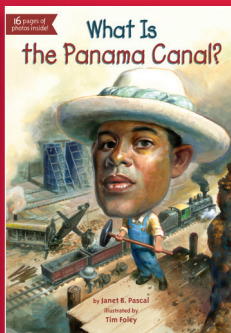
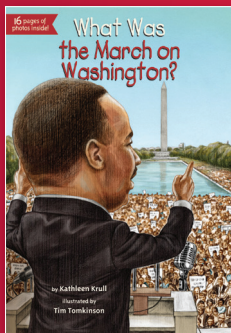
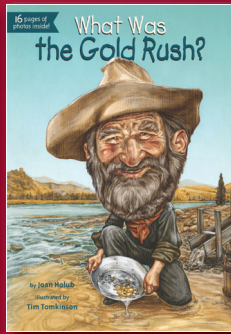
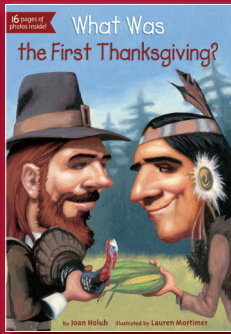
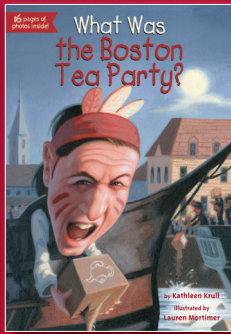
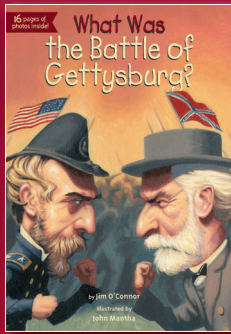
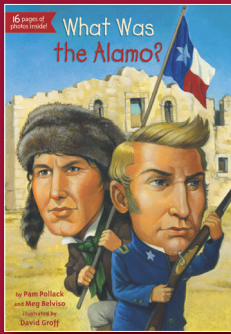


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|---|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Abraham Lincoln? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Franklin Roosevelt? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Milton Hershey? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Albert Einstein? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Frida Kahlo? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Is Muhammad Ali? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Alexander Graham Bell? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Is George Lucas? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Neil Armstrong? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Were the Beatles? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Jackie Robinson? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Roald Dahl? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Christopher Columbus? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Laura Ingalls Wilder? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Steve Jobs? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Dr. Seuss? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Marie Curie? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Walt Disney? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Eleanor Roosevelt? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Mark Twain? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was William Shakespeare? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Elvis Presley? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Ernest Shackleton? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Was Maurice Sendak? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who Were the Wright Brothers? |



What Was?

DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS



THE COMPANION SERIES TO

Who Was?

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