

Character, Community, Commitment: Madam C. J. Walker
(from the Role Model Series)

Indiana Standards:

5th Grade Social Studies-Economics: Students describe the productive resources and market relationships that influence the way people produce goods and services and earn a living in the United States in different historical periods. Students consider the importance of economic decision making and how people make economic choices that influence their future.

5th Grade English Language Arts-Writing: Students write effectively for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

5th Grade English Language Arts-Speaking and Listening: Students will develop and apply reciprocal communication skills by participating in a range of collaborative discussions.

5th Grade English Language Arts-Reading: Students will read and comprehend a variety of nonfiction independently and proficiently

Specific Concepts to Develop:

Character, Community, Community, Entrepreneurship, Goods and Services, Capital resources

Goals: Select one or two of these goals depending on time and overarching objectives of the lesson.

- 1) Students share what they know about Black hair care products, successful business, “giving back” to the community and Indiana Avenue.
- 2) In pairs or small groups, students create a rap, song, poem or comic strip that highlights the issue of businesses in the Black community OR one aspect of Madam C. J. Walker’s innovation.
- 3) Students create scripts of one major action and act it out and the class talks about barriers to innovation and/or Madam C. J. Walker’s contributions.
- 4) Students write a letter to Indiana Chamber of Commerce with an idea that would generate revenue for the Black community.

Activity(ies):

Students will read whatever passages provided by educator.

Students will create a visual representation of a theme, idea, action, or perspective that will include text and images.

Students will listen to summary or stories about Madam C. J. Walker.

Key Questions and other strategies:

- What type of character did Madam C. J. Walker have?
- To what community did Madam C.J. Walker belong?
- What does it mean to “give back to your community”?
- What is one commitment Madam C.J. Walker made?
- What is innovation and how can you use it to support your community?

Product

- A textual-visual representation of their understanding

Conclusion/Synthesis:

- A show-tell with each camper receiving constructive feedback about their final product.

Resources:

- Script
- Slides to highlight timeline of Madam C.J. Walker's choices and innovation
- Paper (Cardstock), markers, and tape to display the visual representation
- Handout with directions for each camper/each table
- Table Tents (Campers' Names)
- Dry erase markers for whiteboard or chalk
- Timer (watch, phone)