

CORETTA SCOTT

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by Ntozake Shange

Ages: 4-8; Grades: PreK-3

Themes: Biography, Women's History, Tolerance and Respect

Running Time: 7 minutes

NEW! COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

SUMMARY

Through evocative poetry and artwork, the life of Coretta Scott King is beautifully portrayed. From Scott's days as a young girl walking five miles to a segregated school, to her marriage to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this movie simply, yet deeply, brings students back to the time of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most important activists. Rich language gives voice to both the tragedies and triumphs of this volatile time. This movie is a powerful addition to any Civil Rights curriculum, and will give students a unique and interesting perspective into this era.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify and research key figures in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Students will create a Civil Rights map that identifies important Civil Rights sites in the U.S.
- Students will develop their vocabulary.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Use a **KWL** chart to elicit background knowledge (a three-columned chart: What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned). Students will brainstorm what they know about the Civil Rights Movement, important Civil Rights figures, and the causes of the Civil Rights Movement. Record all of this information in the What I Know column of the KWL chart. Next, have students generate a list of questions of what they want to know. Record these ideas in the next column. Finally, ask what they know about the Civil Rights Movement. Guiding questions:

- What people do you know of who helped to fight for equality for all people?
- What was life like for African Americans and other people of color in the past?
- What laws in the past were unfair to African Americans and other people of color?

Tell them that they are about to watch a movie about Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife. Encourage students to watch and listen for the names of people or events that they recognize. Revisit the KWL chart after viewing the movie to fill in the What I Learned column.

Common Core Connection Activities:

Preview some of the vocabulary from the movie: **freedom, Jim Crow, boycott, equality**. Each student should write the new word on the front of an index card. On the back of the index card, students should write the definition of the word and a picture that represents the meaning of the word. Encourage students to listen for the words in the movie and to write down any context clues from the movie that would also help them to remember the meaning of the word.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Common Core Connection Activities:

Revisit the KWL chart. Students should independently make a list of what they learned from the movie. Then, have students share what they learned and record it on the KWL chart. Students can choose one of the most important or interesting events or people that they learned about to do a project or research report on. Help them find resources on the **internet or in the library**. **Provide project ideas such as a skit of one of the events**, a research paper on a person, or a newspaper article about the event or person. Students should incorporate their new vocabulary words into these projects.

Use a U.S. map to guide students through identifying important Civil Rights sites. Start by identifying some of the places mentioned in the movie, such as Montgomery, Alabama, Georgia, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. Have students color the states and label the cities. A useful website is:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/mlk/maps/maps_pop.html. This interactive map pinpoints 23 locations that played a role in the Civil Rights movement. By clicking on each site, students can read a brief description of what happened there. To extend this activity, provide students with a blank U.S. map. Print the descriptions of what happened at each location from the website. Have students color each state as you click on it, and label the city on the map. Then, students can cut out the description from the website printout and glue it on the side of the map.

Guide students through an internet-based research project on Coretta Scott King's life. Using their research, students can create a project that extends their learning about Coretta Scott King. Project ideas are:

- Biographical poster including a short written biography, pictures, timeline of his life, acrostic poem using Coretta Scott King's name
- 5-paragraph biographical essay
- Annotated timeline including illustrations and 1-3 sentence descriptions of the major events in Scott King's life
- A mobile with pictures and informational cards about Coretta Scott King

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