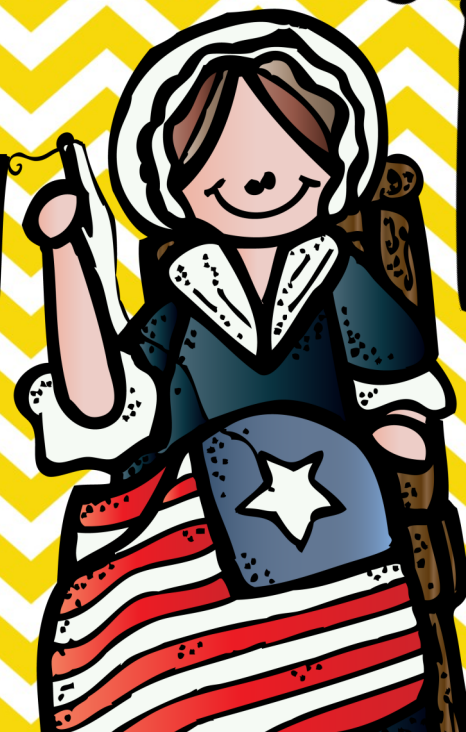
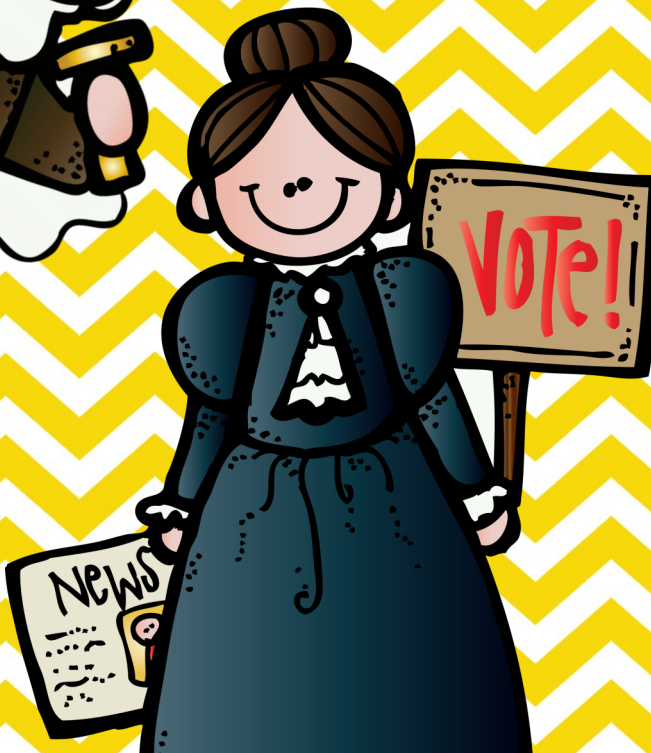
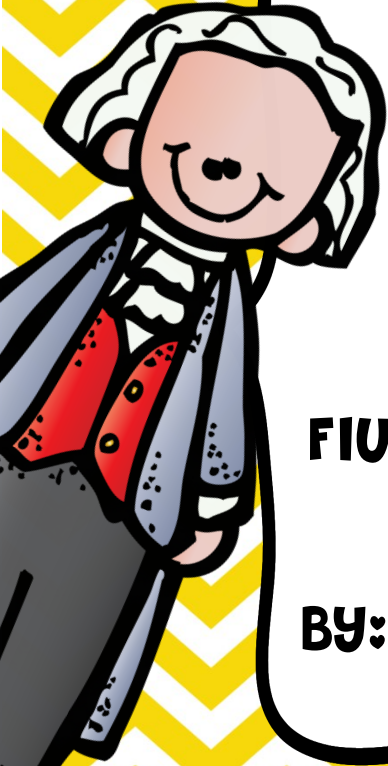


13

American Heroes

Fluencies • Timelines • Tests • Art
and so much more!

By: **Teacher to the Core**



Thank You!

Thank you for purchasing my unit! You have so many wonderful choices on Teachers Pay Teachers, and I am honored you chose my materials. I would love your feedback on this unit. It guides me in making more materials for teachers, parents, and homeschoolers just like you. katieknight@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to share this unit with others, simply log back onto TpT (My purchases) and buy them a "multiple user license" for this product. The second license is always half price or less! What a bargain! Thank you for protecting copy written materials. Have fun "team teaching". It's the best.

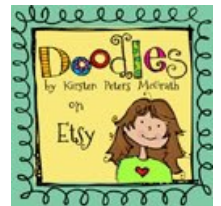
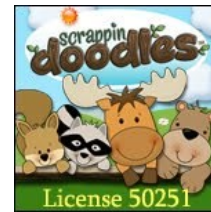
To see this unit in action, please visit my blog
<https://teacherstothe-core.blogspot.com>
Look under "Labels" and click on **American Heroes**

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Katies



Thank you for purchasing Famous Americans. There are many ways you can use these fluency passages. I am going to highlight a few ways, but would love to hear from you how you use them: katieknight@sbcglobal.net

Traditional Fluency:

Traditionally a "fluency reading" passage is designed to be read numerous times over the course of a week. Children do a timed reading 1x daily, and their reading buddy helps them chart their progress. Timed reading is usually 1- 2 minutes. Each time the child reads the passage, they build better fluency and they are able to read more of the passage. The goal is to read the entire passage smoothly and without errors. Traditional fluency passages have a number at the end of every line, this helps with word count, but my students find the numbers distracting. When they test each other they simply count the words read correctly.



Reading Buddies:

I always pair up with a 3rd grade class as fluency buddies. They come to our room 5 minutes before recess. They breeze in, listen to my kids read, help them chart their growth on the graph, and go on to recess. Easy, quick, and smart.

Social Studies supplemental curriculum: The kids are learning a great deal while they practice their reading skills using these passages. I have provided a test for each famous American. You can choose to give your students after a week of reading or after a few reads. This gives them a purpose for reading and fills your grade book.

Reading Comprehension:

These same tests can be a reading comprehension grade when you have your students take the test immediately after reading. I don't do this in first grade, but I did do this in second grade.



Famous American Friday:

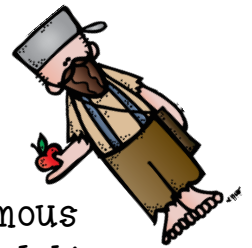
I love Famous American Friday! You can read about the famous American all week, and then share out everything you learned, chart it, and write quick facts. After this try to find movies or You Tube clips that support the learning. Animated Hero Classics is a series that many libraries have. They are wonderful.

Timeline:

I display the hero on our class timeline on Monday. I am telling you, the kids really look at that timeline. They discuss where events fall on the timeline. It also makes their reading more meaningful and helps them build connections between people and events when they can see a timeline.

Non-fiction Reading:

The Common Core wants 50% of reading to be non-fiction. This curriculum helps you get more non-fiction in your day, helps students become comfortable with non-fiction, and helps build character in your students.



Character Education:

This is big at my school. We can learn a lot about character from the Famous Americans that helped shape American history. All of them overcame hardships, showed dedication, and exhibited honor. My school talks about 1 character trait each week. It can always link the trait to our Famous American. If your school does not have a "Character Education" program, you can create your own in class. Simply pick a character trait and talk about it throughout the week as you discuss your hero.



Living Wax Museum:

This is not my original idea, but I am going to try it this year. Each child dresses up as a hero and gives 30 second presentations to visitors. Their presentations can be done during an open house, grade level event, district office walk-through, or for another school-wide event. All of your students are giving presentations simultaneously, so being spread out is important. These pages can be used as research pages, or handouts to the visitors. You may even want to divide the class and have them present 8 at a time over the course of 4-5 weeks. This last way is probably how I will do this in my first grade classroom. For more ideas, Google "school living wax museum" and see how other teachers do this.

In My Room:

I do weekly American Hero fluency with buddies starting in January-April. Famous American Fridays (writing, test, and movie). Each week of April we will do our Living Wax Museum presentations for other classrooms. I will invite any child that wants to present at Open House to come dressed that night.

Grammar:

There is a grammar component to each fluency passage. You will notice at the top of each page it says:

Find the _____ and color them _____

You can instruct your students to find and color/highlight any grammar topic.
example:

Find the nouns and color them pink.

Ideas:

nouns (anchor chart provided)

verbs (anchor chart provided)

subject (anchor chart provided)

predicate (anchor chart provided)

pronouns (anchor chart provided)

plurals

adjectives

adverbs

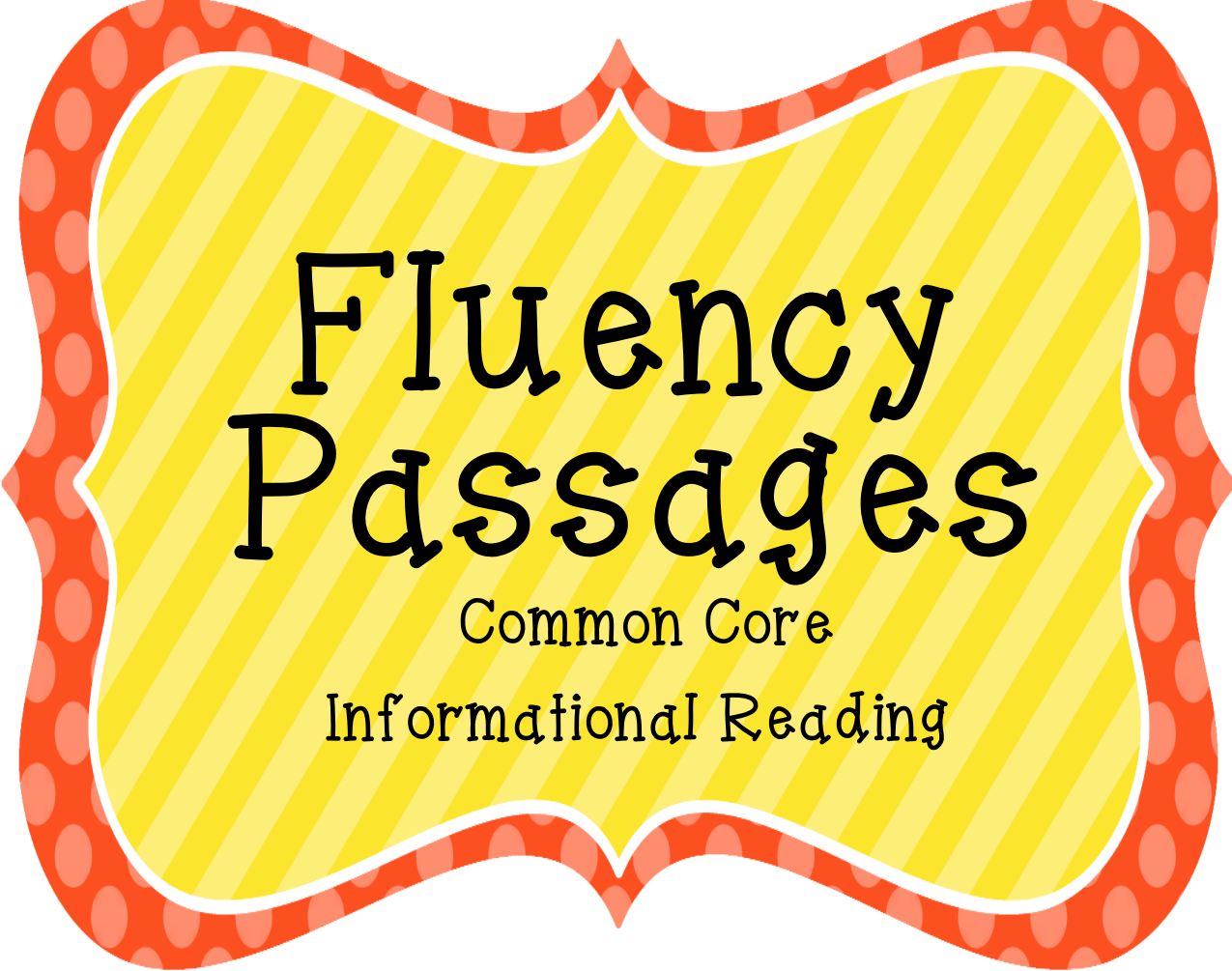
punctuation marks

compound sentences



In first grade we will ignore this grammar component until Friday. On Friday we will search for nouns, verbs, or pronouns.

Allowing students to do this in cooperative pairs, or teams, is always popular in my classroom.



Fluency Passages

Common Core

Informational Reading

My churchoy gets better each time !

Correct Words	10 +	20 +	30 +	40 +	50 +	60 +	70 +	80 +	90 +	100 +	110 +	120 +	130+	140+	150+	160+	170+	180+	190+	
Read 1																				
Read 2																				
Read 3																				
Read 4																				
Read 5																				

my name is _____

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

deaf

blind

Annie Sullivan

communicate

Helen Keller



When Helen Keller was two she had a very bad fever. The fever made her deaf and blind. Talking was very hard for Helen. No one could understand Helen. When Helen turned six, her parents had a teacher come live with them. The teacher's name was Annie Sullivan. They hoped Annie could teach Helen to speak. Annie spelled words into Helen's hand, but it was not working. Then one day, it did work. Annie put one of Helen's hands into water. Then she spelled W-A-T-E-R

on her other hand. Helen understood. She

learned to communicate that day! Helen grew up and wrote a book about her amazing life. She wrote her book in Braille. Braille is a kind of writing. It is bumps on a page that blind people can read with their fin-

gers. (136 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

Find the _____ and color them _____

deaf

blind

Annie Sullivan

breakthrough

communicate

Helen Keller



When Helen was born she was happy and healthy. Sadly, when Helen was two, a very bad fever made her deaf and blind. When Helen was six, her parents asked Annie Sullivan to come teach Helen how to talk. Annie spelled words into Helen's hand, but Helen did not understand. Then one day, Helen had a breakthrough moment. Annie put one of Helen's hands in water and then spelled W-A-T-E-R on her other hand. Helen understood. She learned to communicate

that that day! Helen even learned how to read

Braille. We read with our eyes. Blind people read with their fingertips.

Braille writing is bumps on a page. Blind people feel the bumps as a way of reading. Helen grew up and wrote a book about her amazing life.

(130 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

Find the _____ and color them _____

deaf

blind

Annie Sullivan

breakthrough

communicate

Helen Keller



When Helen was born she was just like us. She was happy and healthy. But when she was almost two she got very sick. She had a high fever for many days. After the fever was over, Helen could not see or hear. Helen's world became silent and dark because she was deaf and blind.

When Helen was six, her parents asked Annie Sullivan to help Helen learn to speak. Annie tried to spell words into Helen's hand, but it did not work. Helen could not understand because she did not know many words. Then one day Helen had a breakthrough moment. Annie put her hands in water and then spelled W-A-T-E-R on her hand.

Helen understood for the first time. Helen learned

to communicate that day! Later, Helen learned how to read Braille. Braille is a form of writing. Instead of ink on paper, a machine puts bumps on the paper.

Blind people can read the bumps with their fingertips. Helen grew up and wrote an inspirational book about her life. (174 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

inventor

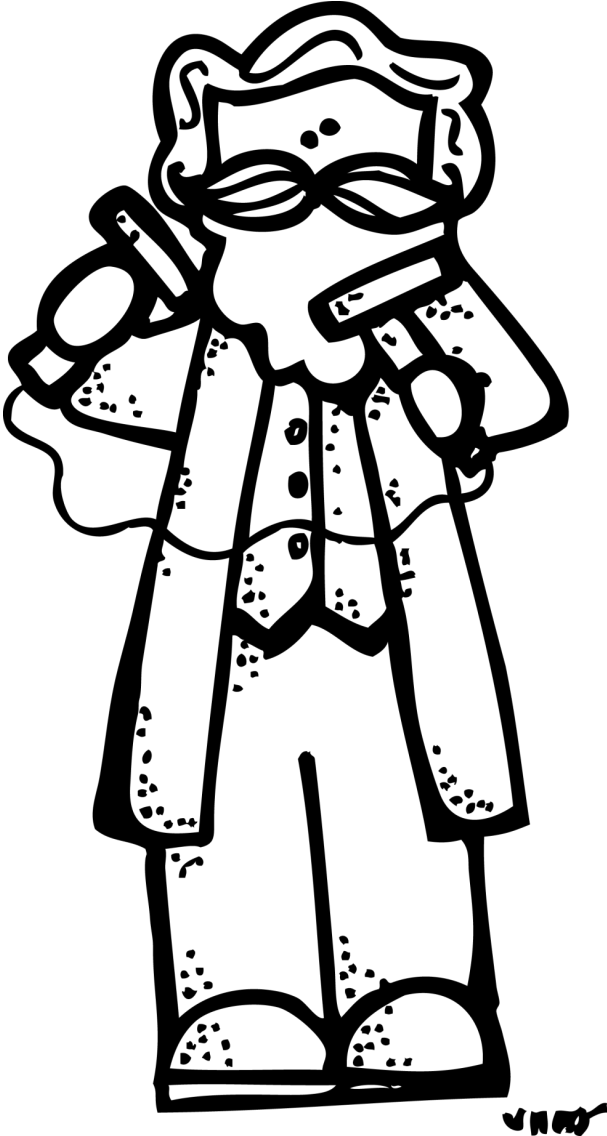
telephone

communicate

machine

breakthrough

Alexander Graham Bell



Alexander was an inventor. He invented the telephone. Do you like to use the telephone? The telephone makes it easy to communicate with people who are far away. Communicating can mean talking. Communicating was important to Alexander. He worked with deaf people to help them learn to talk. He was a good teacher, but he loved inventing things more. Alexander stopped teaching and began working on his inventions. He wanted to invent a machine that could

send sound and voices through a wire. He had Thomas Watson help him. On March 10, 1876 they had a breakthrough. The invention worked! Alexander named it the telephone. The first telephone worked from room to room. Now we can call people that are far away. (135 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

inventor

telephone

communicate

machine

breakthrough

Alexander Graham Bell



Alexander was a famous inventor. He invented the telephone. Do you like to use the telephone? This invention makes it easy to communicate with people across the globe.

Communicating was important to Alexander. His mother was deaf, and he worked with deaf people to help them learn to speak. He was a good teacher, but he loved inventing things more. Alexander stopped teaching and began working on his inventions.

He wanted to invent a machine that could send sound and voices through a wire. He hired Thomas Watson to help him. On

March 10, 1876 they had a breakthrough.

The invention worked! Alexander named his invention the telephone. At first the telephone worked from room to room. Now we can call people all the way across the world. (130 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

nature

west

nickname

Native American

medicine

Johnny Appleseed



John Chapman was born in 1774. He loved nature. When Johnny turned 23 he decided to travel to the west. He planted apple trees as he walked. He thought the people moving west would eat his apples. That is how he got his nickname, Johnny Appleseed. Johnny wore a pot on his head. He did not wear shoes. Some people said he could talk to animals. At night he would sleep under the stars. He ate fresh fruits and veggies that he found while walking. He was kind and gentle. Johnny made friends

with the Native Americans he met. He taught them how to use plants to make medicine. They taught him about the best fruits, nuts, and berries to eat.

When the settlers arrived in the west they found Johnny Appleseed and bought trees from him. For 50 years he travelled, planted apple trees, and made friends. Each time we eat an apple we should be thankful Johnny

brought apples to the west. (164 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

nature

west

nickname

Native American

medicine

Johnny Appleseed



John Chapman was born in 1774. He grew up loving nature. When Johnny turned 23 he decided to travel into the western wilderness. He planted apple trees as he walked. That is how he got his nickname, Johnny Appleseed.

People who knew Johnny said he wore a pot on his head. He did not wear shoes on his feet. Some said he could talk to animals. He would sleep under the stars and eat fresh fruits and veggies from the land. Johnny made friends wherever he went because he was kind and gentle.

Johnny made friends with the Native Americans he met. He taught them about medicine made from plants. They taught him about the best fruits, nuts, and berries to eat.

When the settlers arrived in the west they found Johnny Appleseed, and they bought trees from him. For 50 years he travelled, planted apple trees, and made friends while heading west. Each time we eat an apple we should be thankful Johnny brought apples to the west. (183 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

equal

property

fair

rights

arrested

Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony lived long ago. At that time, men and women were not treated the same. They were not equal. Women could not vote. Women could not own property. Men made all the rules and laws. Susan grew up to be a teacher. She was paid much less than the men teachers. Was this fair? Was this equal?

Susan wanted men and woman to be

equal and have the same rights. A right means having the same choices and chances. Susan wanted to help women be able to vote. She gathered 100 women and they tried to vote for the President. Susan was arrested for helping women vote. But, that did not stop her. She kept helping women get rights. Susan died before women could vote. Her dream came true in 1920. Now women can vote. Now women and men are treated equally. (145words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

equal

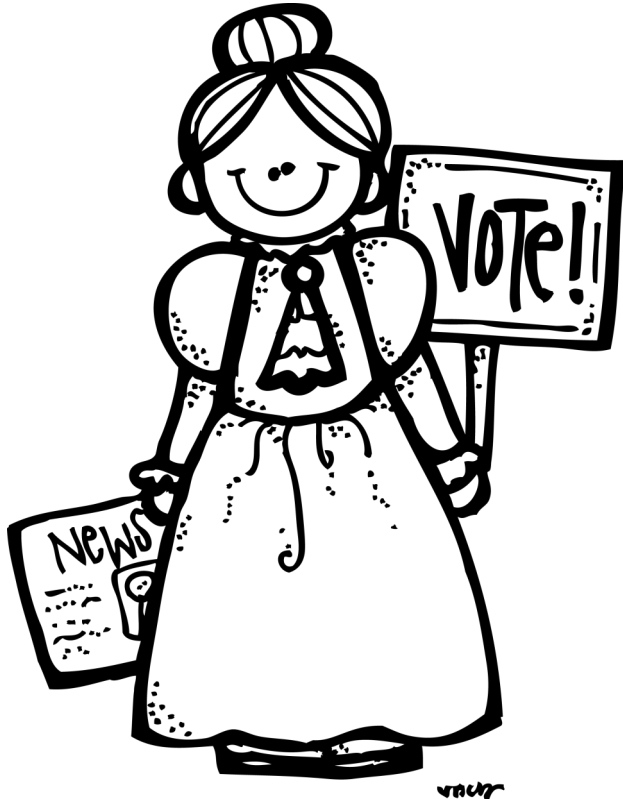
property

fair

rights

arrested

Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony lived a long time ago.

At that time, men and women were not treated the same. They were not equal. A woman could not vote, own property, or be in charge of her money. Men made all the rules and laws. Only the boys were considered important enough to teach. Girls stayed home to help clean the house.

Susan's parents knew girls were important too. They sent Susan to school. Susan grew up

to be a teacher. She was paid much less than the teachers who were men. This was not fair or equal.

Susan wanted men and women to have equal rights. A right means having the same choices and chances. Susan B. Anthony wanted to help women get the right to vote. She gathered 100 women together, and they tried to vote for the President in the year 1872. Susan was arrested for helping women fight for the right to vote. But that did not stop her. She kept fighting for equal rights. Susan died before women could vote. In 1920 her dream came true. Now women can vote. (185 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

fairly

different

refused

arrested

boycott

Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks lived when people were not treated fairly. People were treated unfairly because of the color of their skin. If you had dark skin you had to sit in the back of the bus. Rosa Parks did not think this was right. One day a bus driver told her she had to get up and move further back. Rosa said no. She was too tired. Rosa refused to move. The bus driver called the police. Rosa was arrested and put in jail. People were mad at the bus driver and the unfair rules. They said they ~~was~~ would not ride the bus anymore. They boy-

cotted riding the bus. A boycott is staying away until things change. The bus boycott lasted over a year! The bus company lost a lot of money. Finally, it was decided that all people could sit where they wanted on a bus. Rosa Parks helped make this happen. (160 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

fairly

different

refused

arrested

boycott

Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks lived when people were not treated equally. People were treated unfairly because of the color of their skin. If you had dark skin you were not allowed to vote, you went to a different school, and you used a different bathroom. If you had dark skin you had to sit in the back of the bus. Rosa Parks did not think this was right.

One day a bus driver told her she had to get up and move further back. Rosa was too tired. She refused to move. The bus driver called the police. Rosa was arrested and put in jail.

People were mad at the bus driver and the unfair rules. They said they would not ride the bus anymore. They boycotted riding the bus. A boycott is staying away until things change. The bus boycott lasted over a year! The bus company lost a lot of money. Finally, it was decided that all people could sit where they wanted on a bus. Rosa Parks helped make this happen. (174 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

unfair

segregation

leader

boycott

speeches

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin lived at a time when people were not treated fairly. Some of the unfair laws meant that if you had dark skin you were not allowed to vote. If you had dark skin you used different bathrooms, drinking fountains, and seats on the bus. Keeping everyone separate is called segregation. Martin thought segregation was wrong. He worked hard in school, and grew up to be a leader. He led people at his church. He led people in a bus boycott. He led people by giving speeches about peace and change. He gave a famous speech called, "I Have a Dream". In the

speech he talked about people being treated fairly. Martin was loved by many people. But some people hated him. They wanted him to be quiet. One man killed Martin. Martin is a hero because he helped make our country fair. America is a better place because Martin lived! (151 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

unfair segregation leader boycott speeches character

Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin lived at a time when many laws in our country were unfair. People were treated unfairly because of the color of their skin. Some of the unfair laws meant that if you had dark skin you were not allowed to vote. If you had dark skin you used a different bathroom, drinking fountain, and seats on the bus. Keeping everyone separate is called segregation. Martin thought segregation was wrong. He told his mother, "I'm going to turn this world upside down." He worked hard in school, and grew up to be a leader. He led people at his church. He led people in a bus boycott. He led people by giving speeches about peace and change.

He gave a famous speech called, "I Have a **✔** Dream". In the speech, he talked about people being "judged, not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." This means he wanted people to look at someone's actions not their skin color. Martin was loved by many people. But some people hated him. They wanted him to be quiet. One man killed Martin. Martin is a hero because he helped make our country fair. America is a better place because Martin lived! (206 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

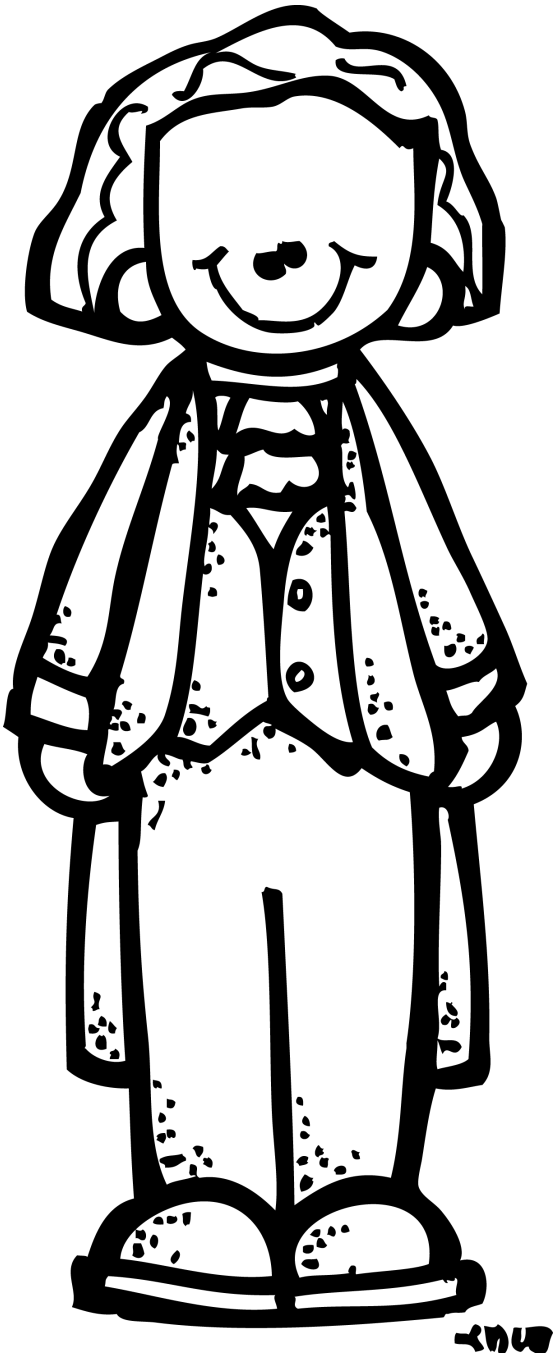
Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

President legend cherry lie White House

George Washington and the Legend of the Cherry Tree



George Washington was our first President. But long before he was our President, he was a little boy. Legend tells us that when he was a boy, he used an axe to chop down his father's favorite cherry tree. His father, Augustine Washington, was very angry. Legend tells us that he asked George, "What happened to my cherry tree?" George said, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I cut down your cherry tree." His father was happy that George had told him the truth. Telling the truth is important. Later, George Washington grew up and became our first President. When he was President he built the White House. He was an honest President. He is one of our most loved Presidents. (113 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

Revolutionary

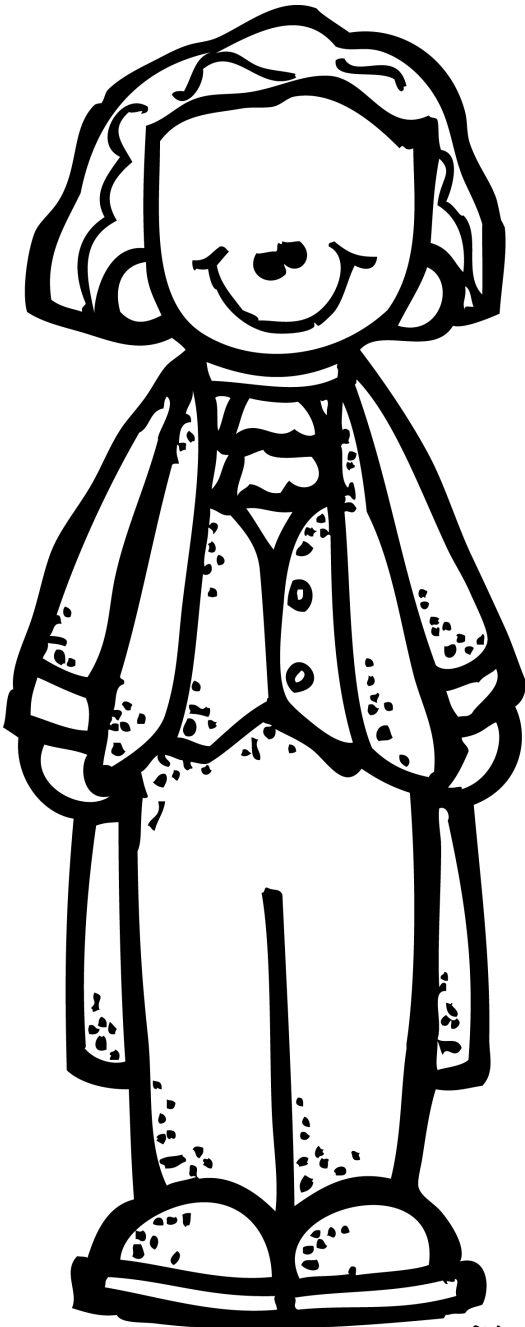
Constitution

President

White House

capital

George Washington



George Washington was a very important man. He was a leader in our war to be free. This was called the Revolutionary War. Then, he helped write our laws. These laws are called the Constitution. He was elected to be our first President. He even helped choose our flag! He became known as the “Father of our Country”. He helped our country to grow and to be strong. While he was President he built the White House. He would ride his horse to the top of a hill and watch it being built. He never lived in the White House though. Our nation’s capital is named after George Washington. The city

is called Washington D.C. (116 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

Revolutionary

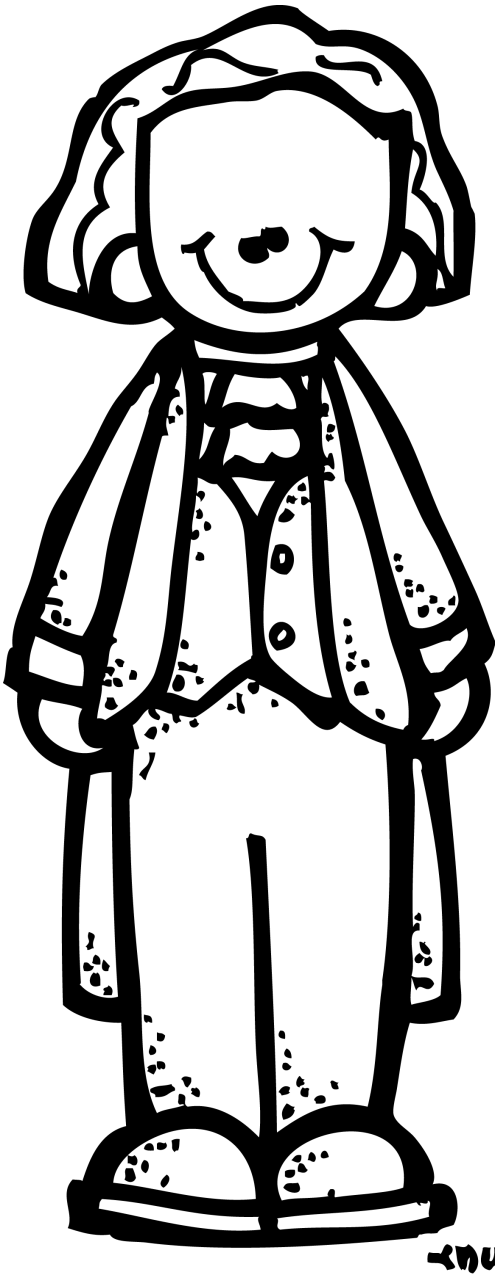
Constitution

President

White House

capital

George Washington



George Washington was a very important man. He was a general in The Revolutionary War. This was the war that helped us be free from England. Then, he helped write our laws. These laws are called the Constitution. He was elected to be our first President, and he even helped choose our flag! He became known as the “Father of our Country”. He led our young country to grow and be strong. While he was President he oversaw the building of the White House. He would ride his horse to the top of a hill and watch it being built. He never lived in the White House though. George Washington was honored by having our nation’s capital named after him. The city is called Washington D.C. Here are some fast facts about George Washington. He was very tall and measured 6 feet 2 inches. He was heavy and weighed over 200

pounds. He had horrible toothaches, so a dentist removed all of his teeth. Some say his new teeth were made of wood, but they were actually ivory. (178 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

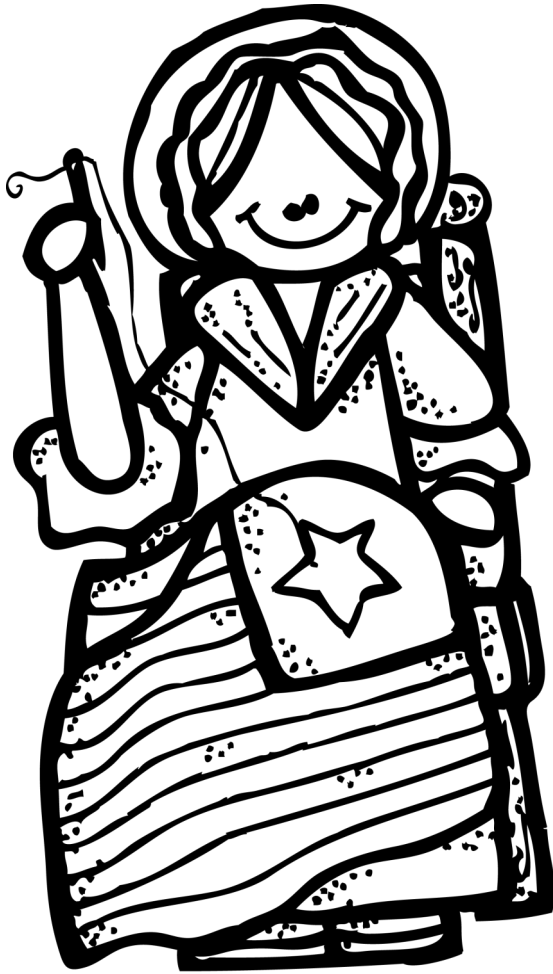
represent

England

freedom

points

Betsy Ross



The American flag is quite beautiful. But who made the first flag? The answer is Betsy Ross. One day George Washington came to see her. He came to see her because she was smart and very good at sewing. He wanted a flag that would represent freedom. George Washington had some good ideas. He wanted the flag to be red, white, and blue. He also wanted it to be square and have stars with 6 points.

~~was~~ Betsy had her own ideas. She thought the flag should be a rectangle. It would fly better in the wind if it was a rectangle. She also thought a star with 5 points would be easier to sew. George liked her ideas. Betsy sewed our first flag. The flag she sewed looked a lot like the flag you see today. (136 Words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

represent

England

freedom

points

Betsy Ross



The American flag is quite beautiful. But who made the first flag? The answer is Betsy Ross.

One day George Washington came to see her. He came to see her because she was smart and very good at sewing. George Washington was leading the Revolutionary War, and he wanted a flag that would represent freedom. George Washington had some good ideas. He wanted the flag to be red, white, and blue. He also wanted it to be square and have stars with 6 points.

Betsy had her own ideas. She thought the flag should be a rectangle because it would fly better in the wind. She also thought a star with 5 points would be easier to sew.

George liked her ideas, and so Betsy sewed our first flag. The flag she sewed looked very much like the flag you see today. Her flag was red, white, and blue. It had stripes as well. The big difference you would notice is that her flag only had 13 stars. The stars were also sewn into a circle instead of in straight lines like our flag today. (185 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

slave

master

dangerous

Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman was born in 1820. She was a slave. A slave is a person who must work for free. A slave has no rights. He or she cannot do what they want. A slave belongs to a slave master. This was a sad time in America's history. Harriet wanted to run away and be free. She grew up, and that is what she did. Harriet ran north. In the north slaves could be free. It was a long and dangerous trip. Once

she got to the north she made a choice. She went back to the south to help more slaves run away. She went back and forth for 8 years. Each time she helped other slaves run away. She followed a path called the "Underground Railroad". Harriet dreamed that one day slavery would end. Her dream came true. Now all American men and women are free. (151 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

slave

master

dangerous

Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman was born in 1820. She was born a slave, and all the people in her family were slaves. A slave is a person who must work for free. A slave has no rights. He or she cannot do what they want because a slave belongs to a slave master. A slave could even be sold. This was a sad time in America's history.

When Harriet was young she wanted to run away and be free. She grew up, and that is exactly what she did. Harriet ran north because in the north slaves could be free. It was a long and dangerous trip. Once she got to the north she decided to go back to the south to help more slaves run away. She went back and forth for 8 years. Each time she helped other slaves run to freedom. She followed a path called the "Underground Railroad".

Harriet dreamed that one day slavery would end. Her dream came true when Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves. Now all American men and women are free.

(176 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

slavery

traveled

Northern Star

risky

brave

Underground Railroad



Many people in the south did not like slavery.

They wanted to help slaves run to freedom.

These people helped the slaves run away. They would let the slaves hide in their houses as they traveled north.

Slaves went from house to house as they ran north. The secret path between the houses was called The Underground Railroad. Slaves ran at night and hid during the day. At night they would follow the Northern Star until they got to a “safe house”. During the day they would sleep in the safe house and eat meals provided by the helpful people.

This was a dangerous trip. It was risky to help a slave run away. All of the people who ran the Underground Railroad were in danger too. They could go to jail for helping a slave. But they knew they were doing the right thing. They were brave. Doing the right thing even when you are scared is called being brave.

(161 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

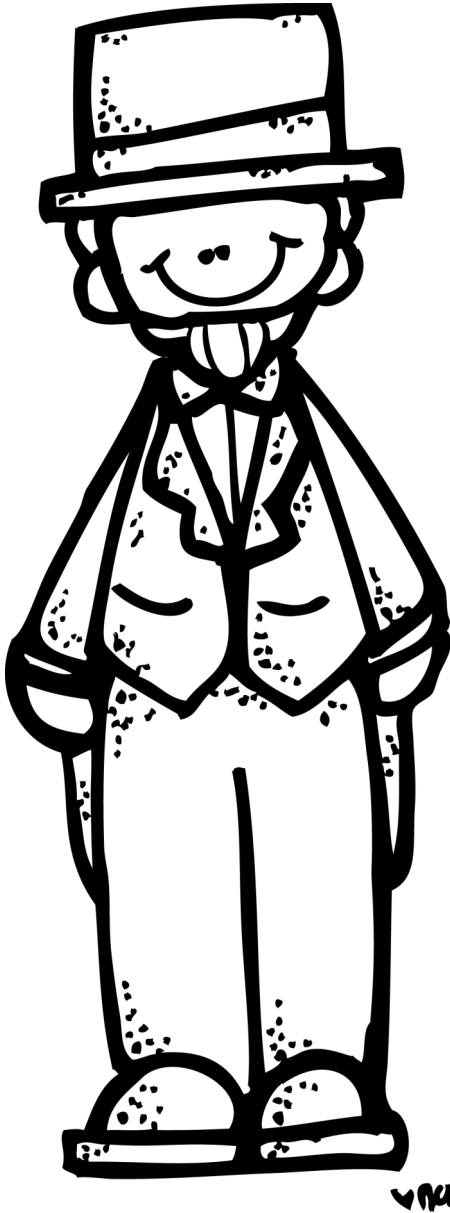
President

slavery

war

Emancipation Proclamation

Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln was our 16th President. He lived when America allowed slavery. Abraham did not think slavery was right. When he became President he planned to end slavery. The south did not like this. They were angry. A war started between the north and the south. War is when two sides fight each other. Abraham Lincoln did not want a war. He also did not want slavery. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln made all the slaves free. This was the Emancipation Proclamation. This made the south very angry! One man was so angry he killed Abraham Lincoln. We are all lucky Abraham Lincoln lived.

He taught us to do what is right. He was very brave. Being brave means doing what is right even when you are scared. (127 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

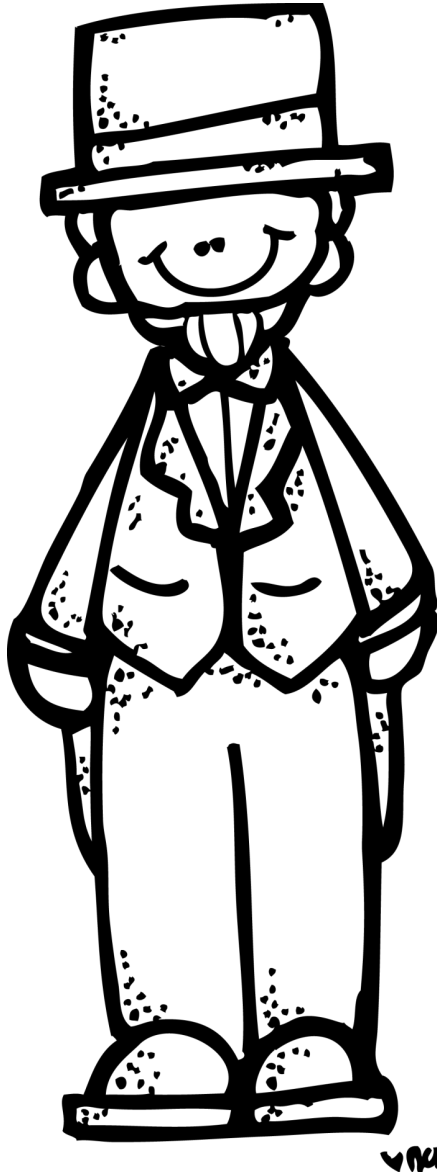
President

slavery

war

Emancipation Proclamation

Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln was our 16th President. He became President when slavery was allowed. Abraham Lincoln did not think slavery was right, and he wanted to free all slaves.

When he became President, he did end slavery. The south did not like this. They were furious. A war started between the north and the south. War is a horrible thing. War is when two sides fight each other because both sides think they are right. Many people die in a war. Abraham Lincoln did not want a war. He also did not want slavery. Abraham Lincoln made all slaves free in 1863. Abe set the slaves free in the Emancipation Proclamation. This made the south very angry!

One man was so angry he killed Abraham Lincoln. We are all lucky Abraham Lincoln lived. He taught us to do what is right. He was very brave. We are brave when we do what is right even when we are scared. (158 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

pilot

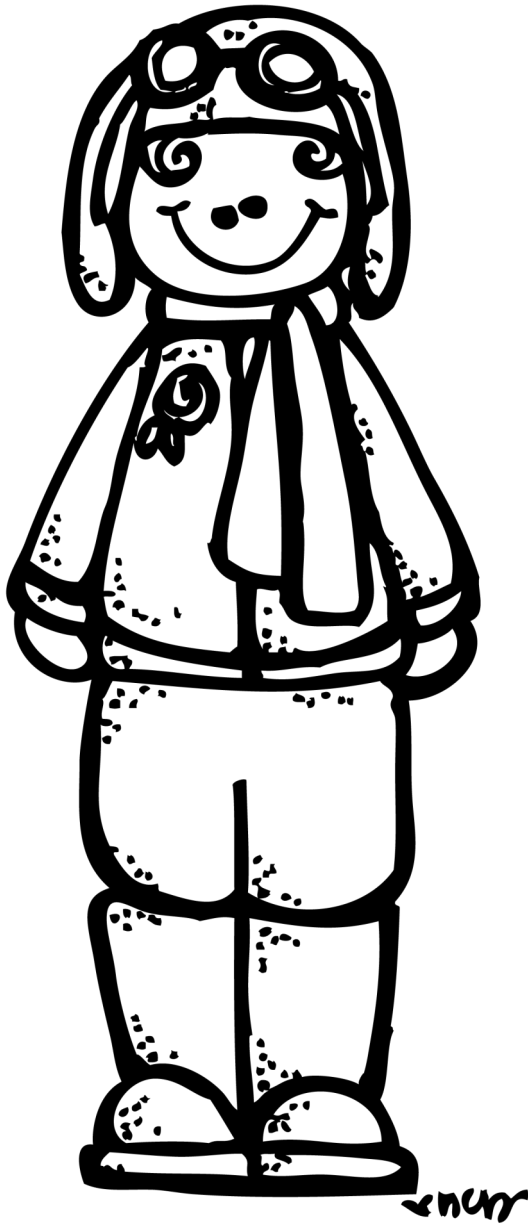
flying

record

inspired

disappeared

Amelia Earhart



Amelia Earhart was a woman pilot. Pilots fly airplanes. At that time most of the pilots were men. She is famous for flying alone across the Atlantic Ocean. This was a record. She set many records with her flying. She wrote a book telling others about being a woman pilot. She inspired many women to learn new things. Inspired means helping others get excited. She lived at a time when women could not vote. She helped inspire women to fight for the right to vote. Amelia was flying around the world when she disappeared. No one knows what happened to her. We remember her amazing life. We

are inspired to try new things because she tried new things. (118 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

pilot

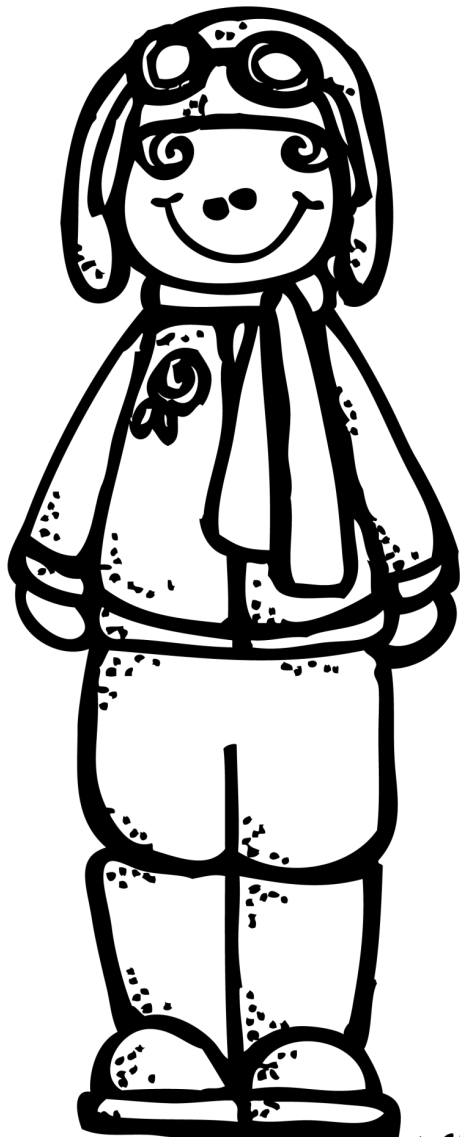
flying

record

inspired

disappeared

Amelia Earhart



Amelia Earhart was a woman pilot. Pilots at that time were usually men. Amelia is famous for flying alone, or solo, across the Atlantic Ocean. This was a record. She set many records with her flying.

She wrote a book telling others about being a woman pilot. She inspired many women to learn new things. Inspired means helping others get excited about making changes in their own life.

She lived at a time when women could not vote. She helped inspire women to fight for the right to vote and to try new things.

Amelia was trying to fly around the world when she disappeared. No one knows what happened to her. Search parties have gone out to see if they can find her plane, but the wreckage has never been found. Though we don't know what happened to Amelia, we remember her amazing life. She inspires us to try new things and challenge ourselves. (155 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

female

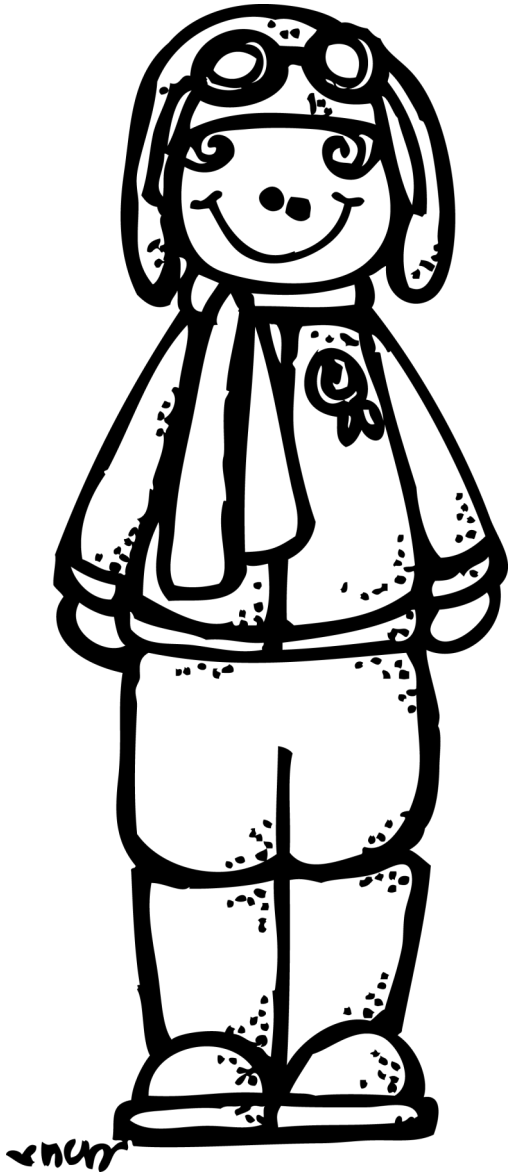
African American

pilot

stunts

France

Bessie Coleman



Bessie Coleman was the first female African American pilot. She was famous for being a brave pilot. She is also famous for never giving up. Bessie learned to fly and do dangerous stunts. People would pay to see her fly a plane and do tricks in the sky. She needed to learn more about flying, but no one would teach her. This is because she had dark skin. She asked many people. They all said no. She did not give up. In 1922, she went to France. In France she learned to be a better pilot. Her favorite tricks were figure eights. She also liked loops, and near-ground dips. The crowd

watching her would go wild. They loved to see her fly! Bessie taught us to never give up on our dreams. (131 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

female

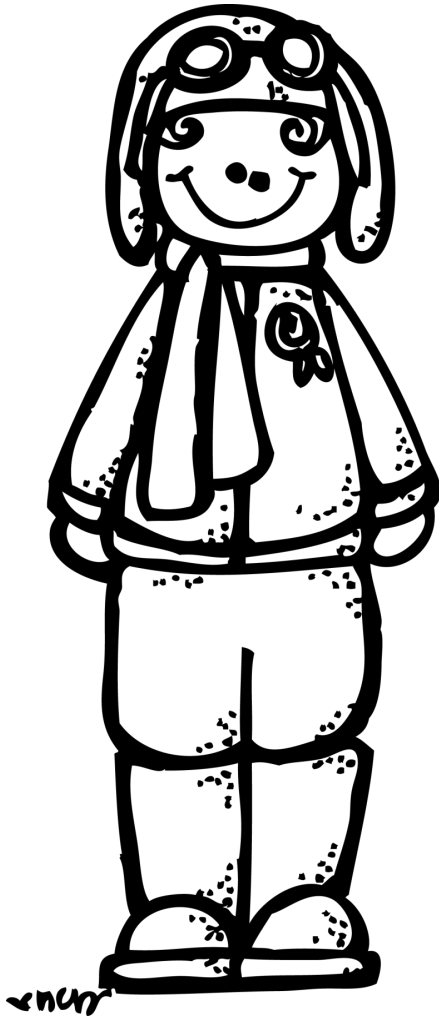
African American

pilot

stunts

France

Bessie Coleman



Bessie Coleman was the first female African American pilot. She was famous for being a brave daredevil pilot. She is also famous for never giving up.

Bessie learned to fly and do dangerous stunts. People would pay to see her do tricks in the sky. She needed to learn more about flying, but no one would teach her because she was an African American. She asked many people. They all said no, but she did not give up.

In 1922, she left America and went to France. In France she learned to be a better pilot and do even more wild and dangerous tricks. Her favorite flying tricks were figure eights, loops, and near-ground dips. The crowd watching her would go wild with excitement. They loved to see her fly!

Bessie taught us to never give up on our dreams. Becoming a skilled pilot was a challenge for Bessie, but she never gave up on her dream. (157 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

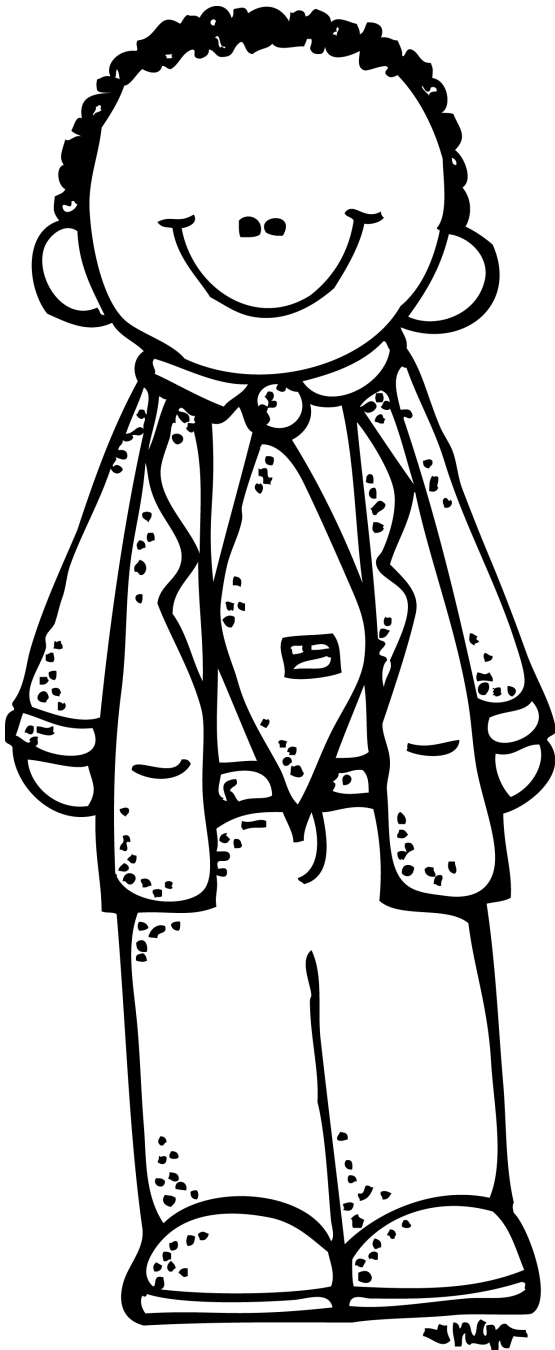
African American

married

Indonesia

crocodiles

Barack Obama



Barack Obama became our 44th President when he was 47 years old. He is the first President that is an African American. President Obama is married and has 2 daughters. Here are some fun facts about our 44th President. The name Barack means “blessing from God”. He is left-handed. As a child he lived in Indonesia. He had really fun pets when he was a child. He had two baby crocodiles, chickens, ducks, and an ape named Tata! He worked at Baskin Robbins in high school, but doesn’t like ice cream. Obama has read all the Harry Potter books. He loves to play basketball. Do you think it would be fun to be President? (114 words)

Name _____

Common Core: I can read informational text.

Social Studies: I know about famous Americans.

Common Core: I can identify the parts of speech.

After reading, find the _____ and color them _____

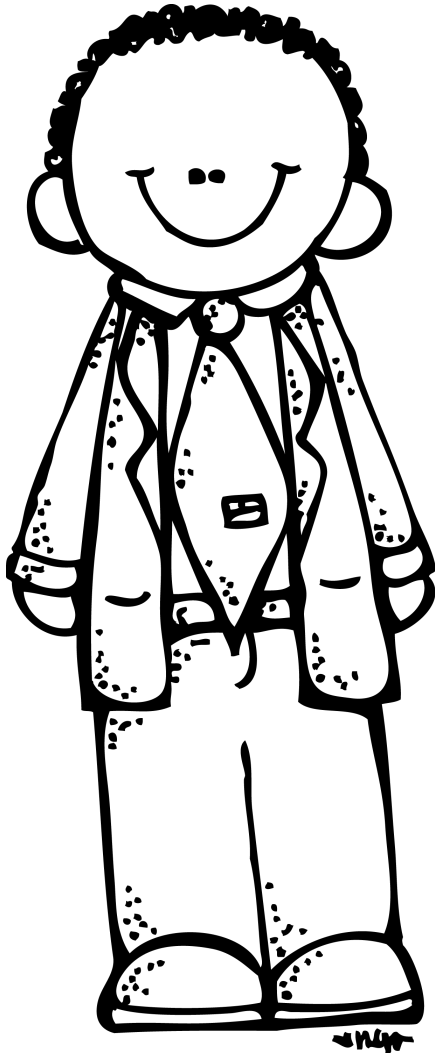
African American

Indonesia

important

significant

Barack Obama



Barack Obama became our 44th President when he was just 47 years old. He is the first President that is an African American. The first time something happens it is an important event. Another word for important, is significant. Barack Obama is a significant man in our history.

Here are some fun facts about President Obama. He is married and has 2 daughters. The name Barack means “blessing from God”. He is left-handed. He lived in Indonesia when he was a child. He had crazy pets when he lived in Indonesia. He had two baby crocodiles, chickens, ducks, and an ape named Tata! In high school he worked at Baskin Robbins, but he doesn’t like ice cream. Obama has read all the Harry Potter books, and he loves to play basketball. As President he tries to make time to go out and shoot hoops.

Do you think it would be fun to be President? Obama thought it was fun to be President. He decided to run for a second term in office. He won his second election in the year 2012. (180 words)

Background Information Cards

These cards are designed to be displayed on a “hero of the week” wall. The benefit of these cards in my first grade classroom is that I can read my students the card and introduce the Tier 2, higher level vocabulary. There are some BIG vocabulary words in this packet: emancipation, segregation, women’s suffrage to name a few. It’s great to be able to read the card and plant those vocabulary seeds and watch them grow as the kids interact with these passages.

Background Information

Helen Keller

Our "Famous American" is Helen Keller. She was born in 1880. Helen Keller lived an amazing life. She was blind and deaf, but became a famous author. When Helen was a baby she had a very bad fever. The fever made her blind and deaf. Can you imagine not being able to see anything or hear anything? Helen could not talk either. This passage is about how she learned to communicate.

Background Information

Betsy Ross

Our "Famous American" is Betsy Ross. She was born in 1752, and is famous for making America's first flag. She lived during the time of the American Revolution. The American Revolution was America's fight to be free of England's control over us. General George Washington was one of the leaders in this war. He came to Betsy Ross and asked her to make a flag to represent our country. George Washington had specific ideas for what he wanted. Betsy changed a few of General Washington's ideas, and created a flag very similar to the one we use today.

Background Information

Abraham Lincoln

Our "Famous American" is Abraham Lincoln. He was born in 1809 and was our 16th President. He believed that slavery was wrong. Slavery is when one person owns another person. The Northern states agreed with Abraham Lincoln. They wanted slavery to end. The Southern states wanted to keep slavery. A war broke out between the states. It divided America in half. This was called the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln did end slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation.

Background Information

Martin Luther King Jr.

Our "Famous American" is Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK). MLK was famous for fighting for equal rights for African Americans. In 1929, when MLK was born, it was a unfair time in our history. All people did not have the same rights. This was the time of Segregation. Segregation meant that anyone with dark skin had to use different bathrooms, schools, drinking fountains, tables in restaurants, and even seats on a bus. People who had dark skin were also not allowed to vote. Martin Luther King Jr. wanted to change this. He did. He fought for Civil Rights. The Civil Rights Movement was the fight for all people of all skin colors to be treated equally.

Background Information

Harriet Tubman

Our "Famous American" is Harriet Tubman. She was born in 1820 when American allowed slavery. Harriet was a slave. A slave is a person who has no rights. They are owned by another person called a slave master. The slave must work for the slave master for free. Most slaves were treated poorly. Some slaves were beaten or sold and separated from their families. This was a sad time in America's history. Harriet thought slavery was wrong. She ran away from her master, and she helped other slaves run away too. They followed a secret path called the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was not really a railroad, but houses where slaves could hide in their travel north to freedom.

Background Information

Amelia Earhart

Our "Famous American" is Amelia Earhart. She was born in 1897 and is famous for flying over the Atlantic Ocean solo. Solo means alone. At this time flying solo was dangerous. She did it though. She is also famous for being a woman pilot. During this time in America's history women were not pilots, most women did not have jobs outside of the home, and they were not allowed to vote. Amelia amazed people because she was a woman doing amazing things! Amelia is also interesting because she disappeared during one of her flights and she has never been found.

Background Information

George Washington

George Washington was born in 1732 and is famous for leading America in the American Revolution, helping to write our laws, and becoming our first President. George lived at a time when America was a colony of England. A colony is a land that is under the control of another country. America was not happy being under England's control. America wanted to fight to be free and have their own leaders and laws. This fight became a war called the American Revolution. George Washington was a great leader in the war. When we won, he helped write new laws, called the Constitution. He also led our new nation as our first President.

Background Information Barack Obama

Our "Famous American" is Barack Obama. Barack was born in 1961 and made history in 2008. He won the Presidential Election to become America's first African American President. This was an exciting time in America's history. There was no law against having an African American President, but Barack was the first African American candidate to win. Being the first person to do something is always special and exciting. Barack was elected for a second term as President in the year 2012.

Background Information

Johnny Appleseed

Johnny Appleseed is the nickname for our "Famous American". His real name was John Chapman. He was born in 1774, and lived at the time when settlers were moving west. A settler is a person who travels to new areas to make new homes and cities. It is hard to be a settler since you must build your new community from scratch. Johnny Appleseed wanted the settlers to have apples to eat. He moved out west and planted apple trees for the settlers to enjoy.

Background Information Alexander Graham Bell:

Our "Famous American" is Alexander Graham Bell. He was born in 1847. Alexander was an inventor who loved to make new things. He made something that your family uses every day. He invented the telephone! The first telephone looked very different than the telephones you see today. Today we can call people all over the world. When Alexander lived it was difficult to communicate across the globe quickly. His invention made communicating easier.

Background Information

Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman was born in 1892. She lived at a time when women were not pilots and African Americans did not have equal rights. She wanted to become a pilot, but no one would teach her because she was an African American. Bessie had a goal, and she was going to fight to accomplish that goal.

She went to France to learn to be a pilot! When she came home, she dazzled crowds of people with her flying stunts.

She inspires us to work hard to accomplish our goals.

Background Information

Susan B Anthony

Our "Famous American" is Susan B. Anthony. She is famous for helping women fight for the right to vote. When Susan was born in 1820 women did not have many rights. A right means having the same choices and chances as everyone else. At this time in history women could not vote, own property, or be in charge of their own money. Some little girls did not even go to school. Susan did go to school, and she grew up to be a leader who fought for women to have the right to vote.

Background Information

Rosa Parks

Our "Famous American" is Rosa Parks. Rosa is famous for refusing to change seats on a bus. You see, when Rosa was born in 1913 America kept people with different skin colors separate. Keeping people separate was called Segregation. Segregation meant that anyone with dark skin had to use different bathrooms, schools, drinking fountains, tables in restaurants, and even seats on a bus. This was a very unfair time in America's history. When Rosa refused to change seats, she was arrested and a bus boycott began. A boycott happens when a group of people decide they will stay away until things change. In the bus boycott, African Americans decided not to ride the bus until unfair laws changed. The bus companies lost a lot of money and then the laws did change! Rosa Parks helped make that happen.