TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES—MTSU

Lesson Plan: Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee

Grade: 9-12
Subjects: African American History, English/Language Arts
Time required: 1-2 class periods
Author: Brittany Walker, Teaching With Primary Sources—MTSU

OVERVIEW
After the end of the Civil War in 1865, African Americans began to seek opportunities in education. Excluded from previously established schools, they founded institutes now known as “Historically Black Colleges and Universities” to provide education opportunities in higher learning.

UNDERSTANDING GOAL
Using primary sources and online resources, students will understand the significance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee.

OBJECTIVES
- Students will analyze primary source photographs from the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- Students will synthesize multiple online sources to answer research questions.

INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION
Why was there a need for African American colleges and universities?

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES
- Computer lab access
- Fisk University Worksheet
- Knoxville College Worksheet
- LeMoyne-Owen College Worksheet
- “The Nashville Globe” Worksheet

Primary Sources
- Class in calculus
- [Junior normal class of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, seated on steps outside of building]
- Jubilee Singers, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.
- Knoxville College, original building, 1876. Beck Cultural Exchange Center.
- LeMoyne Normal Institute, Professor L.T. Larsen, Principal, 1909. LeMoyne-Owen College, Full Record.
- Steele Hall, LeMoyne-Owen College, n.d. University of Memphis Libraries and Special Collections Department.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

African American History
- AAH.19 Analyze the effects of Reconstruction on the legal, political, social, cultural, educational, and economic life of freedmen.
- AAH.20 Assess the successes and failures of Reconstruction as they relate to African Americans.
- AAH.25 Describe the progress of African American institutions, such as religion, education, and benevolent organizations, during this era.

English/Language Arts
- 9-10.W.RBPK.7 Conduct and write short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem by narrowing or broadening the inquiry when appropriate, synthesizing multiple sources on the subject, and demonstrating a new understanding of the subject under investigation.
Step 1 For each primary source listed in Materials and Resources, click on the image to view a larger, higher resolution version of the photograph or drawing. Download these seven larger images. Save these images to show your students on a projector and print copies to distribute.

Step 2 Provide your students with a brief background on American colleges and universities. The first American higher learning institution was Harvard University, established in 1636. African Americans, as well as women, were not allowed to attend universities like Harvard until much later. When the Civil War ended in 1865, African Americans began seeking out their own forms of higher education.

Step 3 Fisk University is what we now call a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), one that was developed for the purpose of educating African Americans who were not able to attend other universities. Introduce students to three well-known Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee: Fisk University, Knoxville College, and LeMoyne-Owen College. In Tennessee, this began as early as 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War, when Fisk University was incorporated in Nashville. You can read more about these colleges on the Trials and Triumphs Web site.

Step 4 Divide students into small groups. Provide each group with one of the three provided worksheets that focuses on a Historically Black College or University in Tennessee: Fisk University, Knoxville College, or LeMoyne-Owen College. Distribute copies of the primary sources for each appropriate college or university (found on Page 1). Instruct your students to read the directions carefully and to access the online sources provided using the classroom computers or the computer lab. Remind students that they will be presenting their findings to the rest of the class upon completion.

Step 5 After the worksheets have been completed, instruct each small group to present their findings to the class. Along with sharing the information they found online, the students should show the primary sources they were given for the school they researched. After each group presents, facilitate a class-wide discussion about what the three schools have in common. How are they different? What makes each school unique?

Step 6 Distribute “The Nashville Globe” worksheets to each student as well as the accompanying newspaper article. Students should complete the worksheet independently, using both the newspaper article and the information they learned during the class discussion. After collecting the assignments, facilitate a class-wide discussion on what the students learned from the assignments. How did Historically Black Colleges and Universities contribute to the education in the state of Tennessee? What is the role of a Historically Black College and University today?

[Junior normal class of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, seated on steps outside of building] [ca.1890-1906]  

[Jubilee Singers, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.  
[ca.1870-1880]]
**EVALUATION**

1) The level of insight and effort in small group responses on the Fisk University, Knoxville College, and LeMoyne-Owen College worksheets (40%),
2) The thoughtfulness of their class participation (20%), and
3) Completion and analysis of “The Nashville Globe” worksheet (40%).

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**EXTENSION**

- Students can explore the Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity website to learn more about Tennessee’s history between the end of the American Civil War and the end of World War II.
- Students can read more about the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States.
- Learn about the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Students can explore the online Library of Congress exhibition NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom to learn more about the organization and its impact.
Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee
Worksheet: Fisk University

Group Members: ____________________________________________

Directions: Using the online resources listed below and the content discussed in class, answer the following questions in your small groups. Be prepared to present what you have discovered about your assigned college or university to the rest of the class.

How many undergraduate students attend this school every year? ____________________________________

What is the mission of the college or university? _________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Using the online resources above, find three facts about the school that make it unique. ______________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Name five notable alumni from the school and describe why they are important figures. _____________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Can you name another early African American college in Tennessee? ________________________________

ONLINE RESOURCES
- http://www.fisk.edu/about
- http://www.fisk.edu/about/history

What is the name of the school and when was it founded? __________________________________________

Where is this school located? _________________________________________________________________

Class in calculus [1899]

How many undergraduate students attend this school every year? _____________________________________________

What is the mission of the college or university? ____________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Using the online resources above, find three facts about the school that make it unique. ______________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Name five notable alumni from the school and describe why they are important figures. _____________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
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_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Can you name another early African American college in Tennessee? ________________________________
Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee
Worksheet: Knoxville College

Group Members: __________________________________________

Directions: Using the online resources listed below and the content discussed in class, answer the following questions in your small groups. Be prepared to present what you have discovered about your assigned college or university to the rest of the class.

- How many undergraduate students attend this school every year? ___________________________________
- What is the mission of the college or university? _______________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- Using the online resources above, find three facts about the school that make it unique. ________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- Name five notable alumni from the school and describe why they are important figures. ___________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- _____________________________________________________________________________________
- Can you name another early African American college in Tennessee? ______________________________
Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee
Worksheet: LeMoyne-Owen College

Group Members: __________________________________________

Directions: Using the online resources listed below and the content discussed in class, answer the following questions in your small groups. Be prepared to present what you have discovered about your assigned college or university to the rest of the class.

What is the name of the school and when was it founded? __________________________________________

Where is this school located? __________________________________________

How many undergraduate students attend this school every year? __________________________________________

What is the mission of the college or university? __________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

Using the online resources above, find three facts about the school that make it unique. __________________________

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___________________________________________________________________________________

Name five notable alumni from the school and describe why they are important figures. __________________________

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Can you name another early African American college in Tennessee? __________________________

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___________________________________________________________________________________

ONLINE RESOURCES
- http://www.loc.edu/about-loc/history.asp
- http://www.loc.edu/about-loc/mission.asp
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LeMoyne%E2%80%93Owen_College

Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee
Worksheet: “The Nashville Globe”

**Directions:** Read the excerpt from the *The Nashville Globe* on the back of this worksheet and answer the following questions. Use your pen or pencil to underline the most important phrases while reading the text. As one of our reading strategies, remember to read the passage twice!

When and where was this text written? _____________________________________________________

Examine the phrases that you underlined as being the most important points of the article. Summarize the main idea of the article. Do your underlined phrases support this idea?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Harvard University was founded in 1636. Why did it take so long for African American higher education institutions to be built?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Why was there a need for African American colleges and universities?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Was there anything in the article that shocked you? If so, what?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

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WELL KNOWN NEGRO SCHOOLS

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD VISIT MEHARRY AND FISK

Visitors Entertained At Hermitage Hotel By Drs. George W. Hubbard and Fayette Avery McKenzie--Two Days Spent Here

As a prelude to what might be expected in the not too distant future, a few members of the general educational board, the Russell Sage Fund and representatives from other philanthropic organizations spent two days in Nashville, and persistent rumors have it they were well pleased with what they saw. Drs. George W. Hubbard, of Meharry Medical College, and Fayette Avery McKenzie, of Fisk University, entertained them, showing them not only Nashville's advantages as an educational center, but its future prospects as the metropolis of the South. An item of interest about the meeting was clipped from the Nashville Tennessean and American of Tuesday morning, which says:

"Dr. Wallace Butterick, Dr. E. C. Sage, Abraham Flexner and Jackson Davis of Richmond, members of the general board of education who are attending the conference here of the rural agents of the Negro schools of the south, and Dr. Paul Hanus, of Harvard University, and Thomas Jesse Jones, of Phelps Stokes foundation, last night were the honor guests at a dinner given at the Hermitage Hotel by Dr. George W. Hubbard, president of Meharry Medical College, and Dr. Fayette A. McKenzie, president of Fisk University.

"Other guests at the dinner were:

Y. M. C. A.

At the meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary, which was held in the new headquarters of the Y. M. C. A. last Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, the room was crowded with beauty and the board members.

"The conference will close tomorrow with a discussion of the advisability of considering extension of the work of the development of industrial training in schools in small cities and towns.

"In discussing the general board's latest donation to Fisk, Dr. Butterick remarked that people often wonder why the board gives so much to the Negro schools, when as a matter of fact the Negro schools are not given more than their share.

"As an indication of the way the money is divided, I need no further than right here in Nashville," he said. "Peabody and Vanderbilt have received from the Rockefeller foundation $1,200,000, and from the Carnegie fund $1,200,000. Recently it was seen that $150,000 will be needed to rehabilitate the buildings of Fisk. There was $50,000 donated from the Rockefeller fund. The Carnegie foundation gave another $50,000, and the president of the school will raise the remaining $50,000."