African Americans Face and Fight Obstacles to Voting

Teacher Notes

In this lesson from Teaching Tolerance, students read Constitutional amendments and primary source documents from the “NBC Learn” archives to understand the voting obstacles faced by African Americans and the strategies used by civil rights activists to fight those obstacles. Throughout the lesson, students practice skills such as summarizing, evaluating, citing textual evidence, and drawing inferences. The lesson concludes with students writing an informative essay.

As this lesson spans the 100 years from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement, it would be an excellent accompaniment to a cross-curricular unit taught by the ELA and history teachers. It could also serve as an introduction to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, as it would allow students to better understand the context in which he was speaking.

For the complete lesson plan and all materials, visit

<http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/african-americans-face-and-fight-obstacles-voting>.