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Introduction

The value of improving literacy while teaching science content has far reaching effects. Using powerful biographies to teach students about famous African American scientists creates opportunities to increase student reading and writing skills. Furthermore, students will be able to relate multicultural literature to science and make connection between American history and science. Biographies can be a powerful way to transform the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum (Bamford & Kristo, 1998). With high-quality biographies, diverse students can become acquainted with the dreams, struggles and successes of actual individuals who may look just like them. These books can inspire historically underserved young people and provide relatable role models. This article contains several annotated bibliographies for young people, particularly African American children and young adults. These bibliographies also include instructional applications (Stagliano, & Boon, 2009). Some of these books received Newbery or Caldecott Medals. Some have been recognized by Coretta Scott King Award sponsored by the American Library Association, the Orbis Pictus Award by the National Council of Social Studies and/or the Carter G. Woodson Award. Instructors are encouraged to keep these awards in mind when attempting to make the STEM curriculum more culturally responsive and affirmative (Lovedahl, & Bricker, 2006).


It is a little known fact that an African American man accompanied Lewis and Clark on their monumental journey across uncharted lands. However, even more unrevealed is the idea that without him the expedition may have been a failure. This story begins by having the reader become familiar with how the world looked through the eyes of an enslaved African. Then with detailed descriptions and historical sketches, the author brings you into the past, with all of its trials, despair and successes. York worked on the Kentucky plantation while enduring hardships related to his enslavement until he headed west with Lewis. During the expedition, York made, developed relationships with the Native Americans, hunted much-needed game, and worked hard to help to make this great adventure a success. Sadly, York returned to St. Louis with neither pay nor land like the other enlisted men, and later went to Louisville, KY., to deliver freight. Not only does this account introduce York, it reveals similarities between him and the only other enslaved person on the expedition, Sacagawea. With the strength of John Henry and the perseverance of Johnny Appleseed, York worked his way west and back again, risking his life all of the way. Unfortunately, many have forgotten his contributions. There are endless educational opportunities that can be related to the historical, geographical, political and social aspects of this story. Teachers can use an anticipation guide to assess students' prior knowledge as well as provide opportunities for students to improve their prediction skills. Since enslaved persons were not allowed to learn to read and write, York's story is only told...
The month honors African American people’s rich range of experiences, struggles and achievements throughout history and into the modern day. This year’s theme, African Americans and the Vote, recognizes the centennial of the passing of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which granted African American men suffrage after the Civil War. 1. “Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.” —Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut. 2. “I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality…. See more ideas about African american, African american scientists, African. Neil deGrasse Tyson has brought Black scientists of all fields to the forefront. Many young people interested in science can learn from his example and he should get credit for that. However, there are many people working and researching that are not in the spotlight. Here are just a few: Dr. Beth A. Brown She … Throughout history many famous African-American men and women have contributed significantly to society as far as civil rights, music, science, sports, equality are concerned. Their remarkable efforts and achievements, and life stories are often are quite worthy of high recognition. Below is a list of some of the most famous African-Americans of all time. Famous African-Americans. Dred Scott (1795-1858) Known For: Being a slave turned social activist Dred Scott was a slave for several owners before he tried to sue for his freedom in a Missouri Court. George Washington Carver (1864-1943) Known For: Being a famous inventor and scientist George Washington Carver coined the crop rotation method. He also invented many different uses for the peanut.