

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts - Women's History Month

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

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Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

BjB: Welcome to today's K-12 Language Arts discussion. The topic is Women's History Month.

KarenL joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Karen

BjB breathes a sigh of relief

KarenL: waves back.

KarenL: Hi everyone!

EmilyG: hello!

SuzanneM: Good Evening

PatriciaJ: Hello!

KarenL: I apologize for my tardiness.

KarenL: Bear with me as I settle in.

BjB: Karen, we didn't do intros. Shall we start with that?

BjB: Please tell Karen where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach.

EmilyG: I'm a sophomore at Franklin College. I want to become an elementary teacher in a couple of years

VivianCh: Good evening everyone. My name is Vivian and I teach second grade in Vienna.

SuzanneM: I am student teaching 1st grade in Kingwood TX, and hope to teach in the lower grades in the fall

BjB: I'm a retired communication and art teacher in Pennsylvania

VivianCh: Can someone give me a quick overview on tonight's discussion?

EmilyG: everyone sounds interesting

PatriciaJ: I live in Houston, TX and I'm currently in my student teaching semester. I want to teach first grade

BjB : caught your breath, Karen?

KarenL: Hi, and my name is Karen. I am a library media specialist in an elementary school in Detroit.

SuzanneM: Vivian, where is Vienna?

KarenL: I am so pleased to see all elementary teachers! I usually get a mix of middle and high school.

VivianCh: in Northern Virginia

SuzanneM: how beautiful

BjB : Vivian, the topic is Women's History Month

KarenL: and we are going to explore some websites and books that are geared to our elementary students.

PatriciaJ: sounds very interesting

VivianCh: great, got it...thanks

BjB : I came across a site that is commercial, but they have some sample lessons on Women's History

BjB : www.learningthroughlistening.org

CarleeH joined the room.

BjB . o O (good for differentiated learning)

KarenL: If I don't name specific books, I will share a couple of publishers who have some "Rookie Readers" biographies which are specifically targeted to the young readers.

BjB : Hi, Carlee

CarleeH: Hi, I had some trouble with getting the chat to work

BjB : www.learningthroughlistening.org

CarleeH: Carlee - Franklin College student - Secondary Ed.

KarenL: Also, if you can afford the subscription fee of \$25., Enchanted Learning is an awesome website that has wonderful early reader printouts on a variety of subjects.

SuzanneM: would you send us a transcript when the session is over?

BjB : Suzanne, you will automatically be sent a transcript when you log out

SuzanneM: thank you

BjB : did everyone get that url?

EmilyG: are we suppose to click on it?

VivianCh: yes

BjB : yes, Emily

PatriciaJ: I got it. Thank you.

EmilyG: I couldn't access it

BjB : Emily, you'll have to look later then. The url will be in your transcript

CarleeH: Yeah...it just makes a weird *bloop* noise.

EmilyG: ok

EmilyG: are we supposed to be discussing the url though?

BjB : try the shift key then, Carlee...or turn off your pop up blocker

BjB : can't discuss it if you can't see it, Emily

EmilyG: I got that

AnhH joined the room.

BjB : does anyone have any comments on that resource?

JeffC: what's the url? I'll create a redirect.

BjB : welcome, Anh

BjB : www.learningthroughlistening.org

BjB . o O (it's short, Jeff)

JeffC: no need to create one then... just type it in a new tab.

SuzanneM: ok, I shut off pop ups and it worked

BjB cheers for Suzanne

AnhH: hi, thanks

CarolynJM joined the room.

BjB : welcome, Carolyn

CarolynJM: Thank you.

BjB : the topic today is Women's History Month

BjB : I shared the url www.learningthroughlistening.org

BjB : they have some sample lessons on the topic

AnhH: cool

AnhH: I am doing a lesson on that next Monday

BjB : the site is commercial, but gives you some ideas on how to differentiate lessons

KarenL: Plus, I registered for the free lesson plans. I'm all for some quality freebies. . .

BjB smiles...as are we all, Karen!

VivianCh: are schools from all states required to teach according to the standards of learning?

BjB : I believe all states have standards of learning, but not all the standards are the same

KarenL: If you check out the Bessie Coleman book, it is great! Nikki Grimes is a prolific, talented, and award winning poet.

VivianCh: ok...good to know

SuzanneM: Is that book on this website?

EmilyG: are we supposed to be looking around the website

BjB: yes, Suzanne

CarolynJM: Yes I just got it to work. Thank you

BjB: did you get the website, Emily?

KarenL: She does this biography differently than your traditional biography. She uses other characters, like Bessie's family and friends to talk about Bessie. You get a different perspective and history about Bessie.

CarleeH: Emily--I have no idea. I think we're just supposed to participate in this webinar.

BjB: there are a lot of books listed

EmilyG: I like Bessie's theme... a lot of students can relate to overcoming obstacles

EmilyG: ok

BjB nods to Emily

PatriciaJ: It seems that many of the lessons are for the secondary grades.....they can be adapted for elementary though

SuzanneM: where do we find books?

BjB: <http://www.learningthroughlistening.org/Classroom-Teaching-Tools/Lesson-Plans/Women-s-History-Month-Lesson-Plans/476/>

KarenL: Are you talking about for purchase or borrowing?

CarolynJM: I do see your point that many of these could be seen as for an older age range. But, I do like that many of them do reach a broad range.

KarenL: I believe Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Borders may have copies available for purchase. Visit your local library, or the children's section in the University library. They may have a copy of this book, too.

PatriciaJ: Those look like great lessons!

EmilyG: is there a book list on this website

KarenL: No, but I think that is a great idea to develop one.

EmilyG: thanks

EmilyG: for some reason it won't let me log into the lessons

SuzanneM: I am so excited to have this resource, thank you

BjB: ready for the next resource?

EmilyG: yep!

SuzanneM: yes

KarenL: go for it, BJ!

PatriciaJ: ready!

BjB: The Library of Congress has a Women's History Month

BjB: <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

BjB: always a great resource for primary sources

KarenL: oh yes, Library of Congress has a wealth of resources not only for women's history month, but almost any history. . .

SuzanneM: How nice they have a section for teachers

EmilyG: that's great to know for the future

BjB: LOC is a real treasure trove

EmilyG: are we looking at anything specific?

BjB: you can just browse for a minute, Emily

BjB: and then come back and let us know if you found anything of interest

VivianCh: do you have any sites with lessons geared toward elementary aged students?

VivianCh: many of the activities are for older students

PatriciaJ: This is a great resource. I'll keep it in mind for future lessons.

EmilyG: I liked the bios

BjB : This year's theme: "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."

CarolynJM: I love this resource for school work, but I never thought to bring it into my own classroom.

EmilyG: we should all go green!

SuzanneM: are we still browsing?

CarolynJM: I also love the many different types of resources this site provides. It not only give a very large range of topics, but also multiple ways of looking at things, such as pictures, articles, etc.

BjB : I can show you one more resource. Yes, Carolyn...good observation

SuzanneM: thank you

KarenL: yep, works with different learning styles.

CarolynJM: One more resource would be great

BjB : here's the last resource I have... <http://wildrosereader.blogspot.com/2009/02/book-lists-resources-for-womens-history.html>

EmilyG: I feel that the students would want something less wordy and more interactive!

BjB : it's up to you to make the information interactive, Emily

SuzanneM: great this site has a list of books, thank you

PatriciaJ: yes, you can select bits and pieces of info from this site and present them to your students any way you want

BjB : show pictures of women from LOC and have the students tell stories about them...or write their own stories about what they are like

EmilyG: good idea~!

EmilyG: I like the book lists categories.... user friendly

VivianCh: I agree the booklist with covers and age range is great!

KarenL: I was going to mention Scholastic as a resource. Plus, Bj, let's look at thinkfinity to see what resources they have.

BjB : Reading Rockets is always good

CarolynJM: Also, you could do a comparative activity. Have students find ways in which they are similar to these figures , and ways in which they differ.

BjB nods to Carolyn.

SusanR joined the room.

EmilyG: will the websites we look at give good ideas on how to teach the womens history topic to boys?

SusanR tiptoes in and sits at the back of the room

CarolynJM: Great question Emily, I was wondering the same

BjB : I think you would teach the topic the same to boys as to girls....

EmilyG: I understand, but I think girls would be more interested and I want the boys to feel included also

CarolynJM: Do you feel that the way in which we keep them engaged would be up to how creative we make our lesson Bj?

SuzanneM: I found a great lesson on Amelia Earhart and it was for the students to write a news story. I am sure this would work great for both boys and girls

KarenL: if you add the "adventure" spin to the biography, that may grab the boys' attention.

BjB : what was life like at the time this person lived...what were women allowed to do....and how did they overcome all the obstacles to achieve what they did

KarenL: Like the news story, boys will probably want to write more about her adventures than about her personal life.

EmilyG: thanks Suzanne!

EmilyG: very true Karen!

BjB : Susan, we're looking at <http://wildrosereader.blogspot.com/2009/02/book-lists-resources-for-womens-history.html>

CarolynJM: I agree with the news story idea. Looking through the site it also gives great books to introduce the idea in a much more exciting way for the lower age levels.

PatriciaJ: thanks for all the great lesson ideas!

KarenL: another idea, which has worked for me, is to get the upper grade students 4th and 5th grade to help them with writing news stories. . .

PatriciaJ: I feel that history is a very exciting subject to teach.... too bad most schools don't devote very much time to it....

BjB: History is also very cross curricular

EmilyG: I agree, but after learning the same history since elementary school... it has gotten extremely tedious now that I'm in college. I think it's the way it's taught that matters and is effective

EmilyG: I actually taught a civil war lesson this afternoon... the students loved it!

CarolynJM: I feel like it can be very exciting to teach, yet very hard for some students to get excited about. Many teachers read straight from the text book with no engaging of the students. It is up to the teacher and how their passion shows whether students not only learn, but enjoy it.

KarenL: unfortunately, for some teachers, social studies is not their strongest subject, especially in self-contained classrooms.

KarenL: also, another unfortunate situation is, if it is not assessed on the state assessments, the content may or may not be taught.

EmilyG: if the teacher isn't strong that really affects the students

EmilyG: true

SuzanneM: Carolyn, you have a great point. I think we can teach our students lots of great stuff if we are creative and incorporate other content areas into it

SuzanneM: I am determined not to fall into the teach for the test mindset!

KarenL: and use some technology tools, like powerpoint, podcasting, digital storytelling tools, blogging, wikis. ..

KarenL: Suzanne we need more teachers like you!!!

CarolynJM: Thank you. I also agree with the assessment idea. Now many schools are focused on teaching for the test, rather than teaching the materials that students need to know.

SuzanneM: thank you

KarenL: have any of you heard of thinkfinity. It is a cool resource as well!

EmilyG: I know my cooperating teacher right now has been teaching to the test

KarenL: <http://www.thinkfinity.org>

EmilyG: the students were soooo bored today just doing required worksheets

SuzanneM: no, thank you Karen

VivianCh: in my experience, incorporating technology has greatly increased student interest and participation

VivianCh: my second graders are learning to use powerpoint and they love it!

EmilyG: great idea!

CarolynJM: And there is a need to incorporate this, as students today will be using these technologies and even higher more than ever as adults

VivianCh: and there are so many great programs available!

VivianCh: it does take time to explore and familiarize yourself with the different programs, but the extra effort is well worth it

KarenL: yes it is. I just learned about digital storytelling using Windows movie maker.

CarolynJM: and much more rewarding in the long run Vivian

EmilyG: I like how this website has training programs

VivianCh: absolutely =o)

SuzanneM: Wow, this site has lots of lessons, Thank you

KarenL: Jason Ohler, the presenter focused more on the content than the bells and whistles. If he ever comes into your area and does a workshop on digital storytelling, register for it!

EmilyG: digital storytelling has been incorporated into the Franklin college education department... we are required to learn how to use it!

VivianCh: photostory is a great program for digital storytelling

KarenL: excellent!!!!

KarenL: is photostory easy to use?

VivianCh: you can find it online and dl it for free

KarenL: windows and mac based?

KarenL: cool!!!!

VivianCh: it's very user friendly

VivianCh: I think the latest version is photostory3

VivianCh: well everyone, I have to run...it's been nice...thanks for all the great links and ideas! good night!

VivianCh left the room (signed off).

EmilyG: me too!!!!

EmilyG: thanks for all the great ideas!

KarenL: you are welcome! thank you for coming!!!

BjB . o O (wow, that hour flew!)

SusanR: imovie for the MAC I believe

EmilyG: I'm a newbie so its great experience!

KarenL: thank you for your information!

BjB: Thanks, Karen

CarolynJM: Thank you so much for the wonderful advice, ideas, and resources. This has been a great experience and opportunity.

SuzanneM: Thank you, Karen and BJ

PatriciaJ: thanks for all the great resources!

KarenL: thank YOU, BJ! you are my shero!!!!

CarolynJM: Have a great evening all. Thank you again.

CarolynJM: Best in education!

KarenL: have a great evening! goodnight everyone!

BjB waves goodnight

SuzanneM: Good Night

PatriciaJ: Have a good night everyone!