

LESSON PLAN – READING *CARTER READS THE NEWSPAPER* (GRADES 3-5)

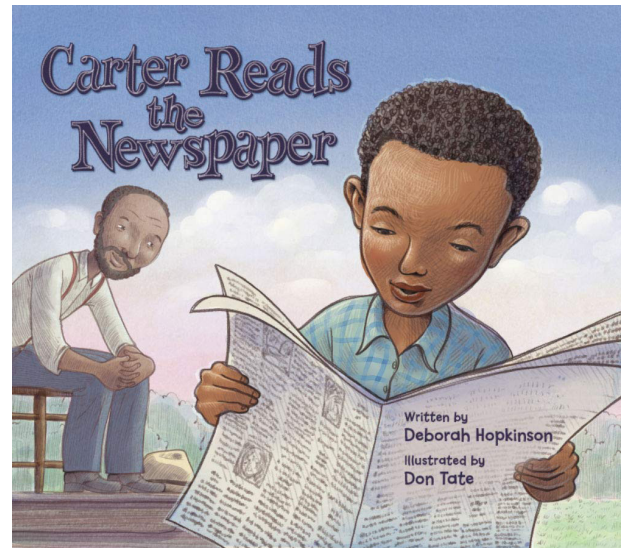
OBJECTIVE: Introduce students to Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History.”

CONTENT AREA: Social Studies

TIME ALLOTMENT: One class period (could be extended)

SKILLS: Reading and analysis, cause and effect of historical events

DESCRIPTION: A young boy reads the newspaper to his father and others, sparking a desire to teach America about Black history.



TEACHER TIP: Great lesson plan for Black History Month.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY I

Ask students: Have you heard of Carter G. Woodson? Why is Black History important?

PRE-READING ACTIVITY II

Ask students to list all the Black historical figures they know.

READING

Dramatically read *Carter Reads the Newspaper* by Deborah Hopkinson and Don Tate (illustrator) with students.

POST- READING ACTIVITY I

Ask students: Why is Carter G. Woodson called the “Father of Black History”? Why do you think it is important to learn Woodson’s story? How does knowing your own family’s history help you know yourself? How is reading an important part of your life?

POST- READING ACTIVITY II

There are several pictures of other famous African American figures throughout the book. Ask students to identify any figures they recognize. Each student should select a figure that they were not familiar with and draw portrait of that figure.

POST- READING ACTIVITY III

Woodson was affected by the stories he heard about his family when they were enslaved. Ask the students to think about their own family members who are making a difference in the lives of others. To help students appreciate diverse perspectives on cultural and historical events, students should share their family stories by:

- » Writing a short story
- » Making a short video
- » Drawing a family portrait

KEY FACTS AND INFORMATION

Personal and Early life

- » Carter G. Woodson was born December 19, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia, ten years after the end of enslavement in America.
- » His parents, now free, shared their stories of the hardships they endured while enslaved.



Carter G. Woodson, the "father of black history." | Library of Congress

KEY FACTS AND INFORMATION (CONT.)

- » Carter could only attend school for four months out of the school year because he was expected to work in the fields at harvest time.
- » Even though Carter's father never learned how to read, he always wanted to be informed of events in the area. He asked Carter to read the newspaper to him.
- » At age 17, Carter moved to West Virginia to work in the coal mines.
- » Three years later, he completed two years of high school.
- » In 1897, Carter entered Berea College in Kentucky. He received his bachelor's degree in 1903.
- » Carter earned a master's degree from Chicago University in 1908.
- » In 1912, Carter became the second African American to earn a PhD from Harvard University (W.E.B. Du Bois was first). Carter was the first person to earn a doctorate who was also the child of formerly enslaved parents.

Death and Legacy

- » Carter learned to read by only attending school four months out of the year.
- » He read the newspaper to anyone who wanted to know what was going on.
- » He travelled to the Philippines to teach.
- » Carter wrote several books on African American lives.
- » He founded Negro History Week in February (birth month of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln), which was extended and evolved into Black History Month.
- » Carter died at the age of 74 in Washington, D.C. on April 3, 1950.

For more online learning resources, visit freedomcenter.org