

# Unit 1: K Amistad

Content Area: **Template**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **Full Year**  
Status: **Published**

## GOALS/PURPOSE

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### Purpose

The Amistad Commission ensures that the Department of Education and public schools of New Jersey implement materials and texts which integrate the history and contributions of African-Americans and the descendants of the African Diaspora.

### Goals

1. To infuse the history of Africans and African-Americans into the social studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete and inclusive history.
2. To ensure that New Jersey teachers are equipped to effectively teach the revised social studies core curriculum content standards.
3. To create and coordinate workshops, seminars, institutes, memorials and events which raise public awareness about the importance of the history of African-Americans to the growth and development of American society in global context.

ELA.RL.CR.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a literary text (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
ELA.RI.CR.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in an informational text (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
ELA.RL.CI.K.2	With prompting and support, identify the central message and retell familiar literary texts, including key details (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
ELA.RI.CI.K.2	With prompting and support, identify the main topic and key details of an informational text (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
ELA.RL.IT.K.3	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
ELA.RL.TS.K.4	Recognize common types of literary texts (e.g., storybooks, poems) and identify features of print (front cover, back cover, and title page of a book).
ELA.RI.TS.K.4	Recognize common types of informational texts (e.g., biographies, recipes, how-to manuals) and identify features of print (e.g., front cover, back cover, and title page of a book).
ELA.RL.MF.K.6	With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
ELA.SL.PE.K.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
ELA.SL.PE.K.1.A	Follow agreed-upon norms for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).

## READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

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Ellen's Broom written by Kelly Starling Lyons and Illustrated by Daniel Minter

Click [HERE](#) for a video read aloud

*In this fictional story, Ellen's mother explains the importance of a broom that hangs on the wall of their cabin. Enslaved people were not allowed to be married so the tradition was to have a 'broom wedding' where a couple would jump over a broom into a new life together. Since Ellen's Broom takes place during Reconstruction, her parents can now go to a Freedman's Bureau to have their marriage legally recognized. Their marriage certificate marks the progress of Reconstruction; yet, the dark history of slavery is not forgotten as symbolized by the enduring presence of the broom.*

All Aboard the Schooltrain: A Little Story from the Great Migration by Glenda Armand

Click [HERE](#) for a video read aloud.

*From the fireside tales in an African village, through the unspeakable passage across the Atlantic, to the backbreaking work in the fields of the South, this is a story of a people's struggle and strength, horror and hope. This is the story of American slavery, a story that needs to be told and understood by all of us. A testament to the resilience of the African American community, this book honors what has been and envisions what is to be.*

Going Down Home with Daddy written by Kelly Starling Lyons and Illustrated by Daniel Minter

Click [HERE](#) for a video read aloud on Epic Books (free educator account needed to access video)

*Down home is Granny's house. Down home is where Lil Alan and his parents and sister will gather with great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Down home is where Lil Alan will hear stories of the ancestors and visit the land that has meant so much to all of them. And down home is where all of the children will find their special way to pay tribute to their family history. All the kids have to decide what they'll share, but what will Lil Alan do? This book explores the power of history and family traditions, and stunning illustrations by Coretta Scott King Honor- and Caldecott Honor-winner Daniel Minter reveal the motion and connections in a large, multi-generational family.*

Uncle Jed's Barbershop written by Margaree King Mitchell and illustrated by James E. Ransome

Click [HERE](#) for a video read aloud.

*Everyone has a favorite relative. For Sarah Jean, it's her Uncle Jed. Living in the segregated South of the 1920s, where most people are sharecroppers, Uncle Jed is the only black barber in the county and has to travel all over the county to cut his customers' hair. He lives for the day when he could open his very own barbershop. But there are a lot of setbacks along the way. Will Uncle Jed ever be able to open a shiny new shop?*

## **ARTICLES AND/OR VIDEO RESOURCES (FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)**

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BrainPop, Jr. Biographies

- [Mae Jemison](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

## **WEBSITES (FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH)**

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[PBS Kids: Find the Face!](#)

Match American Heroes with the events that made them famous!

[PBS Kids: Kid Talk](#)

Get ready to meet some awesome kids! Read about their heroes, their dreams, and what they do for fun!

[PBS Kids: Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum](#)

*Play interactive games and watch videos with Xavier, Yadina and Brad as they tackle everyday problems by doing something extraordinary: traveling back in time to learn from real-life inspirational figures like Harriet Tubman and Arthur*

*Ashe when they were kids.*

## **PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS (LESSON PLANS, REPRODUCIBLES, ETC.)**

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PBS Learning Media Website

Learning About Black Leaders Bingo: PreK and K | PBS KIDS

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/learning-about-black-leaders-prek-k-media-gallery/learn-along-bingo/>

*A bilingual, weekly "Learn Along" Bingo card (one for PreK-K, one for Grades 1 & 2) will include a range of thematic learning opportunities for children to choose their own learning adventure. Emphasis will be on the PBS KIDS 24/7 broadcast schedule and related printables that require minimal supplies or adult facilitation. Weekly activities will be cross-curricular but emphasize Social-Emotional Learning, Math and Literacy development.*

The "[Build a Learning Plan](#)" feature on [learningforjustice.org](http://learningforjustice.org) can guide you in building a lesson plan: selecting the appropriate texts, choosing the student tasks, teaching strategies, and publishing your plans. Assignments can be published directly to your google classroom or printed.