

Unit 1: 2nd Amistad

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

GOALS/PURPOSE

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.2.1	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in a literary text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
ELA.RI.CR.2.1	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in an informational text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
ELA.RL.CI.2.2	Recount a text in oral and written form and determine central message (in literary texts, e.g., fables and folktales from diverse cultures).
ELA.RI.CI.2.2	Recount a text in oral and written form and determine main topic (in multi-paragraph informational text, focusing on specific paragraphs).
ELA.RL.IT.2.3	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges using key details within a text.
ELA.RI.IT.2.3	Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in a sequence within a text.
ELA.RL.TS.2.4	Describe the overall structure of a text, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action, identifying how each successive part builds on earlier sections.
ELA.RI.TS.2.4	Describe the overall structure of a text and effectively use various text features (e.g., graphs, charts, images, captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information.
ELA.RI.PP.2.5	Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author seeks to explore, answer, explain, or describe.
ELA.RI.MF.2.6	Explain how specific illustrations and images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

No Mirrors in my Nana's House written by Ysaye M. Barnwell and illustrated by Synthia Saint James

[Click here](#) for a video read aloud!

A little girl discovers the beauty in herself--and the beauty of the world around her--not by looking in the mirror but by looking in her Nana's eyes.

Ida B. Wells, Voice of Truth: Educator, Feminist, and Anti-Lynching Civil Rights Leader

Written by Michelle Duster and Illustrated by Laura Freeman

[Click here](#) for a video read aloud!

Ida B. Wells was an educator, journalist, feminist, businesswoman, newspaper owner, public speaker, suffragist, civil rights activist, and women's club leader. She was a founder of the NAACP, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the Alpha Suffrage Club, and the Negro Fellowship League. She wrote, spoke, and traveled, challenging the racist and sexist norms of her time. Faced with criticism and threats to her life, she never gave up. This is her extraordinary true story, as told by her great-granddaughter Michelle Duster and beautifully brought to life by Coretta Scott King Award Honoree artist Laura Freeman.

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop

Written by Laban Carrick Hill and Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III

[Click here](#) for a video read aloud!

Before there was hip hop, there was DJ Kool Herc.

On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is When the Beat Was Born. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world.

William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad

Written by Don Tate

[Click here](#) for a video read aloud!

William Still's parents escaped slavery but had to leave two of their children behind, a tragedy that haunted the family. As a young man, William went to work for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, where he raised money, planned rescues, and helped freedom seekers who had traveled north. One day, a strangely familiar man came into William's office, searching for information about his long-lost family. Could it be?

Motivated by his own family's experience, William Still began collecting the stories of thousands of other freedom seekers. As a result, he was able to reunite other families and build a remarkable source of information, including encounters with Harriet Tubman, Henry "Box" Brown, and William and Ellen Craft.

Award-winning author-illustrator Don Tate brings to life the incredible, true story of William Still, a man who dedicated his life to recording the stories of enslaved people fleeing to freedom. Tate's powerful words and artwork are sure to inspire young readers in this first-ever picture book biography of the Father of the Underground Railroad.

ARTICLES AND/OR VIDEO RESOURCES (FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)

BrainPop, Jr. Biographies

- [Rosa Parks](#)
- [Jackie Robinson](#)
- [Harriet Tubman](#)

[Anansi's Rescue from the River | African/African-American Culture](#)

In this video, storyteller Nana Yaa Asantewaa performs the story "Anansi's Rescue from the River." The Anansi tales are told by the Ashanti people of Ghana, West Africa, and have been passed down through the generations by oral tradition.

[Follow the Drinking Gourd | Reading Rainbow Stories](#)

Explore the powerful lyrics and symbols in this story about a family escaping slavery. LeVar Burton explains the significance of the drinking gourd and celebrates the road to freedom paved by the Underground Railroad. The featured book, *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, is read by actor Keith David. LeVar discusses the different roles music has played in the lives of African Americans.

[Duke](#)

This video segment from *Weston Woods* presents the story of Duke by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, and is about Duke Ellington, one of the founding fathers of jazz. When Duke Ellington was young, his parents wanted him to learn to play the piano. Although he began lessons, he was soon lured away by his love of baseball. Later, as a teenager he heard the new musical style called "ragtime" and he was inspired once again to learn to play piano. Soon, he created his own style of music using "hops" and "slides" on the piano. He became a popular entertainer with a flair that attracted many fans.

WEBSITES (FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH)

[Girls Who Code Girls](#)

Girls Who Code Girls is a gaming experience that empowers users to code characters that better reflect them and the diversity of their communities. Users can use code to customize their character's body type, skin tone, facial features, hair styles, outfit details and accessories, personality and identity details.

[Epic! Books - Juneteenth Collection](#) (Free Epic educator account needed for student access.)

Students can explore books and videos about Juneteenth, influential African American people in history, and Civil Rights.

[PBS Kids: E-Cards](#)

Here's your chance to send an African American history e-card to a friend!

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

PBS Learning Media Website

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/learning-about-black-leaders-1-2-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 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.

