

Unit 1: New Unit

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.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/amistad/about/>

ELA.L.VL.8.3.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
ELA.L.VL.8.3.B	Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
ELA.L.VI.8.4.B	Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.
ELA.RL.CR.8.1	Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
ELA.RI.CR.8.1	Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
ELA.RL.IT.8.3	Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot, how ideas influence individuals or events, or how characters influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.
ELA.RI.IT.8.3	Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how contexts influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.
ELA.RL.TS.8.4	Compare and contrast the structure of texts, analyzing how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning, tone and style.
ELA.RL.MF.8.6	Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors or actors) when presenting an idea in

different mediums, including the representation/s or various perspectives of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), as well as what is emphasized or absent in each work.

ELA.RI.MF.8.6

Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors, or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums and the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) to address a question or solve a problem.

READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

The Great Migration: Journey to the North by Eloise Greenfield (book)

In this beautiful collection of poems and collage artwork, award winners Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist gracefully depict the experiences of families like their own, who found the courage to leave their homes behind during the Great Migration and make new lives for themselves elsewhere.

Goes with: **Unit 4 Resisting Oppression, Claiming Freedom**

New Kid by Jerry Craft

2019, HarperCollins

When seventh-grader Jordan Banks starts attending a private school that is primarily white, he has to learn how to navigate microaggressions, tokenism, and not fitting in. Newbery Medal Award, 2020. Coretta Scott King Award, 2020.

40 Acres and Maybe a Mule, by [Harriette Gillem Robinet](#) (Author), [Wendell Minor](#) (Illustrator)

Winner of the 1999 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction

A CBC Notable Children's Book in the Field of Social Studies

Two recently freed, formerly enslaved brothers work to protect the new life they've built during the Reconstruction after the Civil War in this vibrant, illustrated middle grade novel.

The Little Rock Nine and the Fight for Equal Education

by [Gary Jeffrey](#) (Author)

Nonfiction graphic novel about the African American students chosen to integrate a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down school segregation.

You Are Not Alone: The Brown vs. Board of Education Decision. New York: Hyperion Books, 2003.

Thomas, Joyce Carol. Linda Brown,

*Note this is also in Grade 6 but can be used again/in more depth

When the Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools was handed down in 1954, the course of

American history was forever changed. Here are personal reflections, stories, and poems from ten of today's most accomplished writers for children, all young people themselves at the time of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Included are Michael Cart, Jean Craighead George, Eloise Greenfield, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Ishmael Reed, Jerry Spinelli, Quincy Troupe, Joyce Carol Thomas, and Leona Nicholas Welch. With a compelling introduction by editor Joyce Carol Thomas and stunning pastel artwork by Curtis E. James, this collection celebrates the hard-earned promise of equality in education.

ARTICLES AND/OR VIDEO RESOURCES (FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)

Please note: many lessons have EXTENSIVE resources including articles, youtube videos, etc connected to each topic. They are embedded with links and include handouts so please look there first for all resources! Even if you are not going to use the entire lesson, you can use the resources that connect to the topic so please check there first. They are organized well under lesson topics so it does not make sense to list them all here.

The enslavement of people has a history that spans many countries and centuries. In this text, Eric Arnesen provides information about the enslavement of Africans in America.

[Common Lit Article: Jason Reynolds is an award-winning American author of young adult fiction who strives to "create work that helps young people feel cared for." Reynolds was inspired by rap music to begin writing poetry at nine years old, and he continues to use rhythmic language patterns in his work. In this story the narrator reflects on a boy, assumed to be the narrator's younger self, who is preparing a perfect outfit for the first day of school.](#)

WEBSITES (FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH)

Many of the books come with quizzes and there are also some videos. Students can be assigned a book or browse

[Epic Books Collection- Amistad 6th](#)

[Epic Books Collection- Focus on Africa](#)

<https://africa.mrdonn.org/games.html>

Students can do independently, after learning about Africa.

There are lessons connected to this source in the teacher resource section.

<https://www.youtube.com/@makingspacewithchristianro4965>

A YouTube series by award-winning children's author-illustrator Christian Robinson in which he leads young people in exploring big feelings, creativity, and self-expression

<https://www.kidsaskauthors.com/>

(this is not specific to Amistad but has a lot of good representation and can be explored by students independently or a podcast could be assigned)

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

Celebrating Ella Baker and Her “Group-Centered Leadership” February 9, 2020 Mark Engler Ella Baker, who helped build many of the most important organizations of the civil rights movement, defied traditional gender roles. She deprioritized charismatic leadership from above and instead empowered people to take charge of their own struggles for freedom.

Helpful Websites

Helpful Websites:

- [Learning for Justice](#)
- [Morningside Center for Social Responsibility](#)
- [Facing History and Ourselves](#)
- [Scott O'Dell Book Awards](#)
- [African American Museum of Philadelphia](#)
- [PBS Learning Media](#)

Unit 5

Unit 5 SCHOOL SEGREGATION: NOT JUST A SOUTHERN PROBLEM (115 mins)

What were the central issues of the civil rights movement? How did challenges to school segregation energize the movement?

Students will:

- Define movement and civil rights movement.
- Identify some of the central issues of the civil rights movement.
- Discuss the importance of Brown v. Board of Education.
- Interpret primary source documents to understand the problem of school segregation in the North and how activists mobilized in response. → Analyze a graph showing current school segregation levels and discuss why integration is important today.

[School-Segregation-Not-Just-A-Southern-Problem-Lesson-Plan.pdf](#)

Unit 4

Unit 4 Resisting Oppression, Claiming Freedom (100 mins)

What was the Great Migration and why did so many Black Americans migrate north during the early 1900s?

Students will:

- Define the Great Migration and examine a map illustrating it.
- Discuss the factors that pushed people from the South and pulled them to other parts of the country.
- Analyze photos depicting some of the benefits and challenges for Black Americans in the North.
- Compose a piece of writing demonstrating their understanding of some of the experiences of people who were part of the Great Migration.

[Resisting-Oppression-Unit-4-LP.pdf](#)

Unit 3

Unit 3 The Monumental Achievements of Reconstruction (90 mins)

What progress did Black people achieve during Reconstruction to create a more equal nation?

Students will:

- Define Reconstruction and identify some of the major achievements of this era.
- Investigate key people, places and events during Reconstruction that represent the ways in which Black people improved their lives following the Civil War.
- Explore the significance of Reconstruction Era National Historical Park and design a monument for it based on their research on Reconstruction.

[The-Monumental-Achievements-Unit-3-LP.pdf](#)

Unit 2B

Unit 2B: Slavery Built America (60 mins)

If America is considered the “land of the free,” what does it mean that the White House was built by enslaved

labor?

Students will:

- Explore the role of enslaved labor in the building of Washington, D.C. and the White House.
- Analyze a primary source document demonstrating the use of enslaved labor to build the White House.
- Create a fictionalized narrative taking into account the point of view of an enslaved person.

[Slavery-Built-America-Feb-2022.pdf](#)

Unit 2A

Unit 2A: Slavery In NJ (45 mins)

What was the Underground Railroad and how did it help enslaved people gain their right of freedom? What role did the people of New Jersey play in the Underground Railroad and the struggle against slavery?

Students will:

- Describe the Underground Railroad and its significance in the abolition of chattel slavery.
- Investigate Harriet Tubman's role as a leader in the Underground Railroad.
- Explore New Jersey's role in the Underground Railroad and map key stops along the route.

[Slavery-in-New-Jersey-Lesson-Plan-Grades-3_5.pdf](#)

Unit 1

Unit One: Mapping Our Roots (60 mins)

Where in the world did all human beings come from, and why does it matter?

Students will:

- Identify evidence about the origins of humanity and the nature of human evolution.
- Apply map skills and chronological reasoning to understand the migration patterns of early humans.
- Explain the significance of Africa as the geographical source of humankind.
- Discuss how racial and cultural perspectives about Africa and African people have influenced scientists' beliefs about the origins of humanity.

[Mapping-Our-Roots-Lesson-Plan-Unit-1.pdf](#)

Background Unit

Background Unit: Africa's Rich History (125 mins)

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why is it important to learn about Africa's historic kingdoms and vibrant trade? OBJECTIVES Students will:

- Explore the emergence and history of West African kingdoms and trade.
- Analyze the meaning of a West African fable and the significance of that region's oral tradition.
- Interpret a primary source to learn about the influence of the Kingdom of Mali.
- Annotate a text on the history of the Ghana and Mali kingdoms.
- Create an original salt craft rendering depicting key features of an African kingdom.

[Africas Rich History 1 .pdf](#)