

NM BLACK HISTORY

LESSON PLAN

LEARNING GOALS

Students will be able to...

Name and Identify early Black contributions to New Mexico History

Trace the migrations routes of African American people through New Mexico

Identify early relationships between Black, indigenous and Spanish populations in New Mexico

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SUBJECTS Students will engage

NM African American History

MATERIALS Students will be using...

New Mexico and US Blank Maps

World History/Culture

Colored Markers/Pencils

Slavery/Reconstruction/Jim Crow

Computer Access for research

LESSON DESCRIPTION

In this lesson students will engage with the little known history of Black and African-American migration and settlement in New Mexico. Students will trace stories from the first known Black conquistador, "Esteban The Moor" who met his untimely end in what was the Zuni Pueblo, to Isabelle de Olvera, one of the first Black settlers to colonize Ogha Po'oge, Later known as Santa Fe. We will read about the Western Migration to New Mexico and the establishment of freedom towns for Black families fleeing persecution in the south. The lesson will culminate in the creation of a timeline and illustrated map of significant African American history in New Mexico.

VOCABULARY (5 MIN)

1. Black Conquistador
2. The Great Migration
3. Freedom Towns

GUIDING QUESTIONS (5 MIN)

1. When did African People first come to New Mexico? How did they get here?
2. What are some of the significant moments in our history between African and Indigenous people in New Mexico and the Southwest?
3. When you think about the southwest, and in particular, New Mexico, do you imagine black people here? why or why not?
4. When thinking about the distribution of Black people in the United states, why do you think there are so fewer African American people in New Mexico than in other places in the south?
5. What could you imagine were some of the challenges faced by Black New Mexicans throughout their history in New Mexico?

INSPIRATION (5 MIN)

1. Mustafa Azemmouri (c. 1500–1539), also known as “Esteban the Moor”, was a Moroccan explorer who became the first North African of Berber origin to explore North America. in 1527. He has been referred to as "the first great African man in America"
2. Blackdom NM, In the early 1900s, a small utopian settlement of African American families took shape in the New Mexico plains about 20 miles south of Roswell. the town of Blackdom, New Mexico, became the state’s first community of African Americans.
3. Isabel de Olvera (c.1580-1650) Among the first free black women in Northern New Mexico. was typical of the hundreds of Spanish-speaking black settlers who founded and populated cities and towns from San Antonio to San Francisco. In 1781, they comprised a majority of the founders of Los Angeles. Olivera, one of the first inhabitants of Santa Fe in 1600, wrote: “I am going . . . to New Mexico and have some reason to fear that I may be annoyed by some individual since I am a mulatto. It is proper to protect my rights in such an eventuality by an affidavit showing that I am a free woman, unmarried and the legitimate daughter of Hernando, a negro, and an Indian woman named Magdalena I demand Justice.”

ACTIVITY (25 MIN)

1. Read individually or as a class the History of Esteban the Moor and Isabel de Olvera. (Links provided in the resource section)
2. Using the US and New Mexico Blank Maps found in the resources section, Begin to draw the migration lines of African American People in the early west.
3. Beginning with Esteban The Moor, coming from Mexico, Mark the map with the line of migration, the date and the location of encounters. Continue with Isabele de Olvera and other free black settlers from mexico
4. Read the article about the Great Migration, and the Freedom town Blackdom.(found in the links section) Trace the migration lines across the US from the eastern and southern states into new mexico.
5. Mark the location of Blackdom and the other freedom towns established in New Mexico on the map, making note of the dates and locations.
6. Continue the map with current population numbers and concentrations of African American people currently living in New Mexico.
- 7.
- 8.

DEBRIEF (5 MIN)

1. How did making the map of African American settlement and migration in New Mexico make you think differently about the history of black people in this region?
2. What is a shared characteristic you have noted between the first Black inhabitants and those that continued to arrive over the last 400 years? do you see any similarities in thier reasons for coming to New Mexico?

FURTHER RESOURCES

African American History in NM NMPBS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDqGtNSp6UU>

Blackdom <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/welcome-to-blackdom-the-ghost-town-that-was-new-mexicos-first-black-settlement-10750177/>

Black Conquistadors <https://www.latinamericanstudies.org/colonial/black-conquistadors.pdf>

The Great Migration <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/great-migration>

African Diaspora in the Early West <http://www.inmotionaame.org/>

Isabel de Olvera <https://southwestcontemporary.com/isabel-de-olvera/>

Esteban The Moor <http://www.nmhistory.org/2012/06/27/esteban-the-moor/>

West African Slave Narratives <https://freedomnarratives.org>

Huge Teacher Resource on African American History and Identity:

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai/generallinks.htm>

GOOGLE CULTURAL ARCHIVES! OUTSTANDING African American studies RESOURCE

<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/black-history-and-culture>