

NOTABLE WOMEN

LESSON GRADES 6–8

STANDARDS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.6-12.R.1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.6-12.R.9: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.6-12.SL.4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.6-8.SL.5: Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to prove with evidence the big idea, “power is the ability to create change” by using the Notable Women app or website to read about a notable woman and in pairs creating a slideshow that presents how that woman has created change.

MATERIALS:

- Notable Women App or Notable Women website
- Chromebook, iPad, or other digital device
- Notebook
- Pencil
- Poster making materials (if not making digitally)
 - Poster paper (1 per pair)
 - Markers
 - Glue
 - Construction paper

MOTIVATION:

To peak interest and motivate the students, write the question “What is POWER?” on the board and ask the students to discuss this question in pairs/small groups. After a few minutes, ask volunteers to share their ideas.

INTRODUCE THE BIG IDEA:

Introduce the big idea, “power is the ability to create change” and write it on the board. Relate the big idea “power is the ability to create change” to their ideas from the motivation question and inform students that they will be examining how powerful women have changed the course of history in honor of Women’s Equality Day (or Women’s History Month.)

PRACTICE WITH THE BIG IDEA:

To practice the big idea, “power is the ability to create change”, choose a person, character or idea that has created change that the students are familiar with, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Project a picture of the person and ask the students, “What kind of power did _____ have? How did it create change?” Have the students discuss these questions in pairs/small groups. Then, discuss the questions by asking students to share what they talked about.

APPLY THE BIG IDEA:

To apply the big idea, “power is the ability to create change” have students get into partners and choose a woman they want to investigate that is featured on the Notable Women app/website. Using at least two sources (Notable Women app or website, ‘Learn More’ links¹ from the Notable Women website, and/or other websites if time allows) students will research how that woman has influenced history. After analyzing two or more resources and taking notes, students will make a Google Slides presentation to display the way(s) their woman has changed the course of history. If there is no technology available, students can make a poster to display their information. The slides presentation should include the name of the notable woman, a picture of her, and how she created change.

¹ Every effort has been made to ensure that the ‘Learn More’ links are appropriate for grades 3 through 12. However, the stories of some of the women in this database include references to subjects that some may deem inappropriate for younger students (such as violence and sexual assault.)

SHARE & SUMMARIZE THE BIG IDEA:

Once students have finished creating their slideshow that proves the big idea, “power is the ability to create change”, have as many students as possible present their slideshow to the class.

Note: This may be done over multiple class periods or students can get with another pair and present to each other.

INTEGRATION:

After students have presented their slideshow to the class and have gotten to see the influence of many women throughout history, have students think more about the big idea, “power is the ability to influence”, by having students complete an exit ticket in which they answer the following questions: What kind of power did these women have? How did it create change?

POSSIBLE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

1. Timeline: Create a "History of Notable Women" timeline that compiles the dates/years of feats accomplished by the all the women that the students came across in their research.
 - a. Alternatively, have students create a timeline with their partner for their notable woman that includes all the important events in her life (especially moments in which she created change).
2. Geographical Map: Create a "Map of Notable Women" that compiles the locations of where notable women accomplished feats either using an online map or pinning a printed map.
3. Compare & Contrast: Either at home or in class have students use the Notable Women app/website to research another woman that is in the same category. Have students compare and contrast the two women using a Venn Diagram.

This lesson is based on model of teaching called the "Advance Organizer" from: [Joyce, Bruce; Weil, Marsha; and Calhoun, Emily. "Models of Teaching" \(2003\). Centers for Teaching and Technology - Book Library. 96.](#)