

First Grade Women's History Curriculum Lesson Plan

Elizabeth Blackwell

Content/Theme: Women's Achievements

Grade Level: 1

Primary Benchmark SS.1.A.2.1 Understand history tells the story of people and events of other times and places.

Time: 1-2 class periods

Objectives:

1. Students will learn about and become inspired by the achievements of a female who faced difficult circumstances to become a doctor and found hospitals.
2. Students will be able to describe reasons why they would like a certain career and some of the realistic steps they would take to attain that career.

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Passage: Elizabeth Blackwell, Medical Pioneer
- Highlighters or colored pencils
- Drawing paper

Activities:

1. Point out New York, New Jersey, Cincinnati on map. Also point out England on the map. Discuss the difference between states in the U.S. and other countries. Access prior knowledge about England. Ask if students have visited or heard of these places. If possible, show pictures on overhead or presentation station, using the Internet.
2. Discuss the following questions with the students:
 - What do you think it was like to be the first woman to become a doctor?
 - Describe what a doctor does at work everyday? What kinds of things does a doctor have to know?
 - What kinds of jobs do men usually have? Name some jobs that women usually have?
 - What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?
3. Have students picture themselves in their dream career. What would they be doing? Where? What kinds of enjoyable things might they be able to do through their career?

What kinds of hardships might they face? (Ask these questions about Elizabeth's experiences, as well.)

4. Have students draw a picture of themselves and write a few sentences to a paragraph about the job they look forward to having. If time, have students share their work. Discuss what must be done to attain each career (schooling, etc.) with the class.

Assessment:

- Picture with a few sentences to a paragraph about the job they look forward to having
- Notes / highlighted passage / participation

Elizabeth Blackwell: Medical Pioneer

When Elizabeth Blackwell was growing up, her father moved their family to the United States from England. At that time, only men worked as doctors in America. She thought that she would become a doctor because she believed that some women would prefer going to a female doctor when they had problems. Elizabeth applied to many medical schools. All but one of the medical schools turned her down. Although Geneva Medical School allowed her to attend, Elizabeth had a hard time because most of the students and many of the professors (who were all men) were against her being there.

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell graduated first in her class. She was the first woman to graduate from medical school in America. She could not get a job at any hospital, so Elizabeth returned to England. While there, two important things happened. Elizabeth got sick, and lost the vision in one eye. She knew that meant she could never be a surgeon because she had to be able to see well with both eyes to be a surgeon. She also became good friends with another woman—Florence Nightingale, a nurse.

After returning to America, Elizabeth and her sister, Emily Blackwell, opened a hospital for women and children in New York. Emily also became a doctor. Later, Elizabeth opened schools in America and in England to train other women to become doctors. This was something she had planned with her friend Florence Nightingale.

Source: http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_blackweel_eliz.htm