

Lesson Plan

The Little Rock Nine

Book: *Children in the Civil Rights Movement*

Series: Children in History

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students learn more about the Little Rock Nine by participating in a group presentation.

Supplies

- *Children in the Civil Rights Movement*
- “Little Rock Central High School” web page on the NPS website: <https://www.nps.gov/chsc/planyourvisit/upload/Site%20Bulletin%20Little%20Rock%20Nine.pdf>
- Whiteboard
- Computer access for each student

Before the Activity

Have students read *Children in the Civil Rights Movement* before class.

Activity

Chapter 4 (“Nine Brave Students”) tells the story of the Little Rock Nine, a group of nine black students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Even though segregation was not legal, many people opposed this change. In fact, the Little Rock Nine were met with such resistance from white students and parents that a national incident resulted.

Have students read the “Little Rock Nine Biographies” section of the NPS website to learn a bit more about these students. Write their names on the whiteboard, too:

- Minnijean Brown
- Elizabeth Eckford
- Ernest Green
- Thelma Mothershed
- Melba Pattillo
- Gloria Ray
- Terrence Roberts
- Jefferson Thomas
- Carlotta Walls

Students should choose one member of the Little Rock Nine they would like to learn more about. They should team up with one or two other classmates to create a brief presentation about this person. There should be a total of nine groups, each one focusing on a different member of the Little Rock Nine. Students in each group should research the answers to the following questions:

- Where and when was this person born?
- What was this person's life like before high school?
- What happened to this person while she/he was desegregating Central High School?
- What did this person do after attending Central High School?
- What are two interesting or unusual facts about this person?
- What are two questions you wish you could ask this person?

Students in each group should prepare a short presentation that answers these questions. The presentation should include a slideshow that has at least one slide for each bullet point listed above. The slides should include a combination of pictures and text.

Evaluation

Give each group up to 40 points for their presentation, using the following rubric:

- 5 points for answering each question in the bullet-point list
- 5 points for including relevant slides
- 5 points for speaking in a clear and organized way

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 6 (SL 6.4, 6.5).