

Lesson Plan

Historical Essays

Series: American Milestones

Level: Navigator

Objective

To have students write a short essay about an important moment in American history.

Supplies

- One or more books in the American Milestones series
- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard markers
- Paper
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- Where and when did this milestone take place?
- What events led up to it?
- Who was involved in making it happen?
- What challenges did they overcome?
- What changes did the milestone create?

Activity

The American Milestones series covers several important accomplishments from throughout US history. Each book tells the story of how people overcame challenges to create something new. Have each student read a book from the series. Students will write a short essay about the milestone described by their book. The essay should answer the five questions on the whiteboard. It should be two or three pages long.

Evaluation

Collect the essays at the end of class. Use the following system to give each student up to 15 points:

- 1 point for answering each question from the whiteboard
- 5 points for writing that is clear and easy to follow
- 5 points for using correct spelling and grammar

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 5 (RI 5.2), and writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.2), and the National Council for the Social Studies standard 2.