Brazos Valley African American Museum

Curriculum Learning Trunk
Lesson Plans for Elementary School- 3rd Grade

Martin Luther King Jr.:
This trunk contains lessons to provide students with an accurate understanding of the impact that Martin Luther King Jr. had and still has on society.
OBJECTIVE: By the end of class, the third graders will understand the significance of Martin Luther King Jr. and how his “I Have a Dream” speech impacted the Civil Rights Movement through PowerPoint, a crossword, a word-bank activity, a personalized dream, and a Kahoot review via 100% comprehension.

TEKS: Knowledge and Skills
3.1: The student understands how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a Dream” speech influenced the history of the American society.
The student is expected to:
3.1A: describe how this speech has changed over time;
3.1B: identify individuals who have been helped because of this speech.

This activity will take 20 minutes using an MLK PowerPoint, copies of the word search sheet, the MLK Fill-In-The-Blank worksheet and articles, and the “I Have a Dream” handout.

ENGAGE: Start the lesson by catching your students’ attention by giving your own mini “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the classroom. Speak with passion, just as Martin Luther King did in his speech. An example could include something about you having a dream about your students all succeeding since they all have a passion for learning. Then hand out the bell work.

EXPLORE: Step 1: Introduce your students to the Civil Rights Movement. Explain to them what it is, what happened, and why it was important. Give out the “I Have a Dream” paper as bell work and tell them they have three minutes to write their own dream.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOCJFs8dlue

Step 2: Use the PowerPoint provided in the trunk to inform your students about Martin Luther King and his speech and hand out the Fill-In-The-Blank worksheet and article for them to complete.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xXZhXTFWnE

Step 3: They will probably have questions about what different words in the article mean along with some “why” questions as well. Designate about two minutes before you being the next activity to answer any questions they might have.

Step 4: It is important to emphasize to them that this speech and the Civil Rights Movement was not only important to African Americans in
their fight for their rights, but also other groups such as women, Hispanics, etc.

Step 5: Pass out the word search for the students to complete.

Step 6: Then test the students’ knowledge by asking the groups different review questions from the PowerPoint using kahoot. [https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/858387ef-66a4-4c6a-bb1a-f347eab3b7a1]

EXPLAIN: The students learn new facts and gain knowledge about Martin Luther King Jr. and his speech. We want to familiarize our students with the speech so by the end of the lesson they will be able to answer questions such as “Where did Martin Luther King Jr. give his speech?”

ELABORATE: 1. Have students complete the word search activity provided about MLK. 2. Have students complete the word bank worksheet using the small article attached to it. Use the templates that are in the binder. Also ask the class review questions from the PowerPoint to make sure they understood the material.

EVALUATE: Look over the word search worksheet and word-bank and make sure they are filled in completely and correctly. We will ask questions to the groups individually about when MLK gave his speech and where, what the name of the speech is, and what kind of award he received.

EXTENSION: Ask your students to think of someone who has impacted their life and how, just like Dr. King has influenced so many other lives. This person they think of can be anyone, ranging from a family member or friend to a celebrity.

ACCOMMODATIONS: For students who speak English as a second language, we could have them complete the activities in their language so they do not get confused.