

Brazos Valley African American Museum



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

African American All-Stars:
This trunk contains information about African American athletes who have impacted the nation.

Michaela DePrince: Elementary 3rd Grade Lesson Plan
BVAAM
Curriculum Learning Trunk - Lesson Plan

OBJECTIVE: The students will be able to develop a deeper understanding of Michaela DePrince's life and achievements as a ballerina through books and activities via 100% comprehension by the end of the lesson

TEKS: **Knowledge and Skills**
3.6: Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts. The student is expected to:

- 3.6A:** establish purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts;
- 3.6B:** generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information;
- 3.6C:** make, correct, or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;
- 3.6D:** create mental images to deepen understanding;
- 3.6E:** make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society;
- 3.6F:** make inferences and use evidence to support understanding;
- 3.6G:** evaluate details read to determine key ideas;
- 3.6H:** synthesize information to create new understanding; and
- 3.6I:** monitor comprehension and make adjustments such as re-reading, using background knowledge, asking questions, and annotating when understanding breaks down.

ENGAGE: Start by asking the class what they know about ballet or Michaela DePrince, and give a brief description of how she contributed to performing arts in society. You can use her website (<http://www.michaeladeprince.com/>) to find more information. Students will gain more knowledge of Michaela DePrince's achievements through reading the book titled *Ballerina Dreams: From Orphan to Dancer (Step Into Reading. Step 4)* by Michaela & Elaine DePrince, completing a worksheet to accompany the book, and playing a cause-and-effect game with flashcards.

EXPLORE: **Step 1:** Introduce the topic by asking if the students know of any famous African-American performing artists that they have seen or heard of in contemporary society.

Step 2: Hand out a worksheet for students to complete during class discussions while reading the book titled *Ballerina Dreams: From*

Orphan to Dancer (Step Into Reading. Step 4) by Michaela & Elaine DePrince as a class.

Step 3: As a class, have the students work as a team to complete the cause-and-effect activity. Check their results when they are finished with the activity.

Step 4: Have a class discussion about what they learned from reading the book, completing the worksheet, and doing an activity. Ask your students why it was important that they learn about Michaela's story and how she was a role model for other people in her community. Here is a link to an article about her life and some of her more recent works:
<https://www.today.com/series/love-your-body/war-orphan-ballerina-michaela-deprince-shares-her-incredible-story-t115253>

EXPLAIN:

The materials used is the book titled *Ballerina Dreams: From Orphan to Dancer (Step Into Reading. Step 4)* Michaela & Elaine DePrince, a worksheet to answer questions about information in the book, and cause-and-effect flashcards to challenge the students on what they have learned. After these activities, students will be able to identify the achievements of DePrince in her community.

ELABORATE:

Students will read the book as a class and have an in-class discussion over what they are reading throughout the book. They will work on the worksheet as they read and have the in-class discussion. The worksheet should be completed or almost complete by the time they are finished reading the book. Here is a link to more activities that can be used to help students understand more about Michaela DePrince and her life story:
<https://www.thecurriculumcorner.com/thecurriculumcorner123/2017/10/book-study-ballerina-dreams/>

EVALUATE:

The teacher will use the worksheet and cause-and-effect flashcards to measure student comprehension. During the reading, there will be questions that the students will have to answer. These two activities will help test the knowledge of student by seeing what they have learned from both items.

EXTENSION:

The trunk will contain another book called *Ballerina Dreams* by Michaela & Elaine DePrince. This book will help provide another perspective/story on the life of DePrince, so the students are able to obtain more information about her and her life. There is also a mask and feather boa for students to gain a better understanding of the different props ballerinas use every day. Students can also watch this quick video to see DePrince's skill and passion for ballet:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84fEWB28Oa8&index=129&list=LLZHnV8xZ_qeRg9JjSiSvmMa

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The lesson can be accommodated to those students who learn at a slower pace by giving them more time to work on the worksheet based on the book. By giving out a worksheet, students are able to create their own unique responses and reflect on what they have personally come to learn. Also, the reading done in a group setting can be beneficial for English language learners as well because you will be there to guide them through unfamiliar vocabulary and sentence structure. The format of the book itself is a step-by-step reading process; the number at the top of the front cover indicates the reading level and appropriateness for the grade.