

Mother Jones Lesson

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I. Topic:

The Life of Mother Jones

II. Related display in museum:

Mother Jones framed collage and painting

III. Enduring Understandings:

1. Individual Americans, such as Mother Jones, have contributed to the labor movement.
2. Mother Jones's contributions were significant and varied.
3. By uniting in a labor union, laborers became stronger and secured their rights.

IV. Essential Questions:

1. Who is Mother Jones, and why was she important?
2. How did Mother Jones influence industrial workers across the country?
3. What role did unions play in changing the industrial work environment?

V. Common Core Standards:

1. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
2. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions
3. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
4. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.10 By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
5. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

VI. Sources:

1. Mother Jones quotations:
www.goodquotes.com/search/Mother+Harris+Jones
2. Mother Jones biographies:
<http://www.biography.com/people/mother-jones-9357488>
<http://www.nytimes.com/books/01/03/25/reviews/010325.25reynolt.html>

VIII. Activity and Procedures:

1. Attention-getter: Mother Jones photograph. Teacher will display an image of Mother Jones, giving the students no information. Students will answer the following question in writing: What is this woman's story?
2. Teacher will display Mother Jones Documents - a combination of quotations and pictures about Mother Jones. This can be accomplished in a whole-group setting or as a gallery walk, where students walk around the room analyzing the quotations and pictures.
3. Students will perform a second writing after the experience with the quotations and photographs. The students will answer the following question in writing: Now what do you think her story is? How have your first thoughts on her changed?
4. Teacher could lead a class discussion on the results.
5. Students work in computer lab or independently to research Mother Jones's life.
6. Students will complete the Mother Jones Biographical Worksheet.
7. After completing their research on Mother Jones, students will write a formal obituary for Mother Jones (see Mother Jones Obituary Rubric).

IX. Wrap-up/Homework:

1. Students can present their obituaries to the class.
2. In addition to, or in place of the obituary, students may create a poster, digital presentation, or memorial/monument of Mother Jones.
3. Students may research another labor or workers' rights leader and create an obituary, poster, digital presentation, or memorial/monument to that figure.

X. Suggestions for teachers:

1. To differentiate instruction, students can draw a memorial/monument to Mother Jones instead of writing the obituary.
2. This lesson can be easily modified to make it shorter or to extend it, based upon your students' needs or interests.

Mother Jones Biography Sheet

Name:

Parents:

Date of Birth:

Husband:

Place of Birth:

Children:

Important experiences:

Impact on the world:

Interesting facts:

Date of Death:

Sources:

Age:

Location:

Mother Jones Obituary Rubric

Scoring Criteria	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Needs Some Improvement	1 Needs Much Improvement
The writer has an introduction, a conclusion, and smooth transitions.				
The writing is interesting, supportive, and complete.				
The writing demonstrates that the writer comprehends the accomplishments of Mother Jones.				
There is accurate spelling, correct grammar, and appropriate punctuation.				
The content of the paragraphs emphasizes appropriate points.				