



Celebrating Black History Month, 2021

February, 2021

Dear RPS Educators,

In addition to the resources I have seen shared at your individual schools, I wanted to offer some ideas for celebrating Black History Month. We have been working on our various curriculums to include the experiences of all students, but we still have a ways to go. Our goal is to come to a point where it is the norm for students to be able to read and learn about histories and stories that include folks who look like them and who have similar lived experiences.

The Black History Month 2021 theme is, "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity." Below is a list of sites that include both lesson plans as well as information for educators. I have also included the resources I shared around the election regarding safely having conversations around race with students.

If you have additional resources you would like to share please reach out to me and I will add to this document.

Thank you,
Christina

Title	Source	Description	Site
Teaching Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb"	PBS (grades 6-12)	Lesson plans for exploring the poet's work from the inauguration. Thank you to Ashley Waterberg for sharing!	https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons-plans/lesson-plan-discuss-22-year-old-amanda-gormans-inaugural-poem-the-miracle-morning/
Newsela: Celebrating Black History Month	Newsela (grades 3-12)	A variety of articles, poems, and resources for teaching Black History Month.	https://newsela.com/about/black-history-is-our-history/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=WC-2021-01-Black-History-Month-Page&utm_content=bhm-ribbon
History.com	The History Channel	The origins of Black History Month as well as teaching resources.	https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month
Teaching Tolerance	Teaching Tolerance.org	Articles written for educators about teaching Black history.	https://www.tolerance.org/the-moment/january-28-2019-teaching-black-history-month
PBS Kids Black History Month	PBS (K-5)	Audience is parents but several great resources for teaching about Black history.	https://www.pbs.org/parents/black-history-month?elqTrackId=5E3034D3102BB113A08DA96BD3F2CCC2&elqTrack=true%22
Nat. Geo Kids	National Geographic (ELEM)	an explanation of Black History month and related readings (ELEM)	https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/black-history-month/
Black History Month PPT	Ms. Kingston, Grade 4 WHE	A daily individual of the month for Feb. That highlights a	https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WzXrjDJsVlwwPgyw5z5QZFXhTym6O4C/edit#slide=id.p4

		famous Black American	
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Resources for Having Difficult Conversations with Students:

A guide to difficult conversations (High School)

<https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/difficult-dialogues/>

John Hopkins University-best practices for engaging students in civic discourse in the lead-up to the election.

https://snfagora.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Election2020_FINAL.pdf

Webinar -Having Difficult Conversations with Students from "Teaching Tolerance"

<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/webinars/lets-talk-discussing-racism-and-other-difficult-topics-0>

A guide to civil discourse in the classroom (grades 6-8):

<http://www.tolerance.org/handbook/civil-discourse-classroom/civil-discourse-classroom>

Speaking Up Without Tearing Down: Calling in as Opposed to Calling out (Teaching Tolerance)

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2019/speaking-up-without-tearing-down>

Civil Discourse in the Classroom (Facing History and Ourselves)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16-VzqSwik3LFbf1HXylY9sIf2tNTVhNJ/view?usp=sharing>

Speaking and listening resources from the RHS Content Literacy Team:

<http://www.rhscontentliteracies.org>

go to "Speaking and Listening" for strategies