



# Teacher Tip of the Week

## New Teacher Support Program 2008-2009

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Teacher Tip of the Week  
New Teacher Support  
Program  
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### Teaching Black History and the Internet

Black history and culture is such a part of the American fabric -- and the school curriculum -- that it's difficult to imagine a time when that wasn't so. Established as Negro History Week in the 1920's by Carter G. Woodson, February was chosen for the celebration because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were born in this month. Extended to a month-long celebration in 1976, Black History Month is an opportunity to emphasize the history and achievements of African Americans.

This month -- February, Black History Month -- is a time when many teachers draw special attention to the contributions of black Americans to "America's history." Whatever grade the students are in, teachers can find plenty of rich Black History resources on the Internet -- Web sites that can help students everywhere "stitch together" a portrait of the African-American experience.

The following Black History ideas and internet websites are just a few of the hundreds out there where creative teachers will find valuable, adaptable resources.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH SITES FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

The all-time favorite site for young children is the [Kids Zone](http://www.afro.com/children/children.html) (<http://www.afro.com/children/children.html>) Web site from AFRO-America's Black History Museum Web pages. Kids Zone pages include a "Discover Africa" page. Here you'll find a large map of Africa. Click on many of the countries to learn fun facts about the geography and people of those countries.

At Kids Zone, you'll also find myths and fables -- from Trinidad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Angola, and more. Of course, those stories include a couple folk tales from Anansi, most kids' favorite spider! Each story is beautifully illustrated. You might use the stories as listening activities.

Of course, reading is central to any primary teacher's curriculum. Your school and local libraries are probably full of great picture books related to the black experience. Collect a variety of picture books to share with students and to have in your classroom. Be sure to include geography and biography picture books --

with *real* photos!

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH SITES FOR MIDDLE LEVEL STUDENTS

Teachers in grades 3-8 have a wide variety of excellent Internet sites to draw from. Be sure to check out the Stamp on Black History site, mentioned in the primary section above, if you're looking for bios of famous black Americans.

Two other sites for middle graders are worthy of mention -- and they both tap the resources of well-known encyclopedias.

The first website is [The Britannica Guide to Black History](http://search.eb.com/blackhistory) (<http://search.eb.com/blackhistory>). Click on Britannica's "Black History Timeline" for a superb resource. Scroll this lengthy timeline from 1517 to the

present. Along the way, connect to Britannica stories about important people, places, and events. An excellent way to learn!

Looking for additional sites to interest your students? Some other sites for middle graders:

[Rosa Parks: The Woman Who Changed a Nation](http://www.grandtimes.com/rosa.html) (<http://www.grandtimes.com/rosa.html>) A special story, which includes quotes from Parks and updates about her life.

[National Civil Rights Museum](http://www.civilrights museum.org/home.htm) (<http://www.civilrights museum.org/home.htm>)

Take a virtual museum tour! Learn about the events and meet the people who were involved in landmark events such as the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, the Montgomery bus boycott, the march on Washington, the Selma-Montgomery march, and more.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH SITES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

All of the sites in the two sections above provide valuable information that high school students can use.

*Story continued on page 2...*

#### HELPFUL WEBSITE FOR TEACHERS



<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/#table>

Blue Web'n is an online library of 2189 outstanding Internet sites categorized by subject, grade level, and format (tools, references, lessons, hotlists, resources, tutorials, activities, projects).



#### Cutting Corners

##### NO MORE NAMELESS PAPERS

An easy way to make sure the students have his or her name on their paper have them draw a shape beside their name before turning it in. So when you go to collect the home work tell the class to draw a happy face by their name (you can have a different shape for each day). This eliminates any "nameless" papers!

## Black History Month and the Internet (continued from page 1)

From the Library of Congress comes an excellent Web site, [The African-American Mosaic](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html). (<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>)

This site is a guide to primary source materials related to the black American experience. The exhibit covers only four topics: Colonization, Abolition, Migrations, and the WPA. The materials available illustrate the breadth of the LOC collection. Students can link to all sorts of interesting primary source materials, just a handful of which are listed below:

- *The African Intelligencer*, a newspaper published in July 1820 by the American Colonization Society.



**“Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off.”**

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

- A sermon delivered in 1791 by Jonathan Edwards, Jr., in which he forcefully argues against ten common pro-slavery positions.

- *The Slave's Friend*, published monthly for children by the American Anti-Slavery Society; an 1836 issue includes abolitionist poems, songs, and stories.



- A bar graph from the eleventh census shows the percentage of whites and blacks for 16 states at each census from 1790 to 1890.
- A copy of a 1950 Bureau of Census map shows the distribution of the black population, which at that

time accounted for about 11 percent of the U.S. population.

Another excellent site worth checking out:

AFRO-America's [Black History Museum](http://www.afro.com/history/history.html) (<http://www.afro.com/history/history.html>)

site offers interactive exhibits that explore in detail the topics of slavery, the Tuskegee Airmen, Jackie Robinson, the Black Panther party, and more.

Kids Zone provides a [Black History Quiz](http://www.afro.com/children/brain/brain.html) (<http://www.afro.com/children/brain/brain.html>) too -- the perfect conclusion to your Black History study.

## THANK A TEACHER



**Jay Feely**  
**Kicker, New York Jets**

**“Without question the best teacher I ever had was Robert Weiner. He inspired as well as educated, and his life was the greatest educational tool he had. I respected him so much I asked him to be the best man at my wedding!”—Jay Feely**



## Handling the “Incoming” Paper Dilemma

A teacher's desk can become piled high with junk by the end of the day unless there's an easy-to-maintain system in place for dealing with incoming items and papers. Have a set place near, not on, your desk for students to turn things in, so they don't become accustomed to piling things up on your personal workspace.

Have a basket for any special assignments you collect (such as writing waiting to be edited) as well as a separate inbox for parent notes, children's drawings, and other non-assignments. Keep your most frequently used binders, teacher's manuals, and office supplies right out on your desk and keep the others on nearby shelves and drawers. Have a file organizer on your desk to hold incoming papers (to read, to sort, to do, to keep on hand, and to file). Lastly, have a large, deep basket in which to place any papers or items you don't have time to deal with immediately during the day, and be vigilant about emptying it each afternoon before you leave work. Make it your goal to have nothing but your plan book on your desk as you leave.



## New Teacher Support Participants:



**Vicki Vaughn**

Mt. Juliet  
Elementary

Kindergarten

### WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

*"I've always had a fascination and special love for children. After working in the business world for 20 years, I realized what I enjoyed most was the time I spent working with children outside my job. I love teaching small groups, such as at church, or even in a neighborhood cul-de-sac. (Kids can teach you a lot.!) In addition, I have a desire to see children succeed, and to believe in themselves as they discover their uniqueness and giftedness. So, I went back to college and got my MAT in education.*

*Children today need a lot of love, too, and I feel I am just as called to love them as to teach them. I hope the time they spend in the classroom...discovering, learning and growing...is a rewarding and memorable experience for them."*—Vicki Vaughn



**Marcie Murrell**

Watertown High  
School

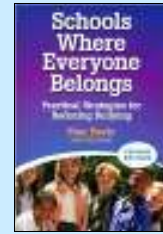
9-12 GOT/CARS/  
Business

### WHY DID YOU BECOME A TEACHER?

*"After working fifteen years as a CPA, I decided that I wanted to spend my time and energy making a difference with children. I have a lot of experience that I want to share. I am looking forward to a new challenge."*—Marcie Murrell



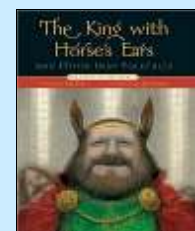
## From the Bookshelf:



**Schools Where Everyone Belongs : Practical Strategies for Reducing Bullying**  
by Stan Davis, Julia Davis

For all grade levels. This new edition is packed with practical guidelines and proven strategies for implementing a whole-school approach for reducing bullying. The author draws on theory and research, as well as over two decades of experience as a school counselor and consultant to provide educators with his creative ideas and successful techniques.

Interventions to help aggressive youth internalize rules and develop conscience are paired with methods for helping targets of bullying. Chapters cover a wide range of topics, including myths about bullying, acknowledging positive behavior, effective discipline, working with parents, relational aggression, empowering bystanders, and preventing disability harassment.



Ages 8 to 12

## The Purpose of a Test

The purpose of a test is to determine how well the student mastered the objectives of the lesson. Therefore, the test must be correlated to the lesson objectives.

These are not valid reasons for writing tests:

- ◆ Passage of time
- ◆ Material covered
- ◆ Need for points on a curve

### ◆ Period to kill

The test must be written before the lesson begins, because the test will be used to assess for student learning.

The purpose of a test is to assess a student's performance of the lesson objectives, NOT to provide the teacher with a basis for a grade.

Students are to be graded on their mastery of

course objectives, not graded against each other.

### WHY STUDENTS GET LOW GRADES

1. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO (THE PROCEDURES).
2. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TO LEARN (THE OBJECTIVES).



# Master Teacher Tips... Communication Skills

Don't think bulletin boards and posters aren't important. They are. And they should be used extensively in every classroom—and changed or rotated often. Too, know the placement of bulletin boards and posters is important. The best places are within the sight lines of students—where they normally look for long periods of time. Also, bulletin boards and posters should be placed where students congregate, where students stand in line, or where they are forced to stop. Make no mistake: bulletin boards and posters can be used to communicate any message you desire—from attitudes to behaviors to values you want students to adopt. And, of course, they are an ideal way to encourage high standards.

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To communicate more effectively with students after they have made a mistake, you must take four actions in the following order. First, tell students what they did wrong. Second, honestly tell them how you feel about the error without minimizing or exaggerating your feelings. Third, tell students what they should have done—and be positive and firm with your specific suggestions. Fourth, give students a chance to clarify the issue—but don't accept excuses. Try these techniques and you will get better results from your communication efforts.



## Upcoming Events

**Relationship Wellness Month**

**National Black History Month**

**International Friendship Week  
February 17-23**

**World Day for Social Justice  
February 20**

**Pancake Day February 24**

## For a Laugh!

