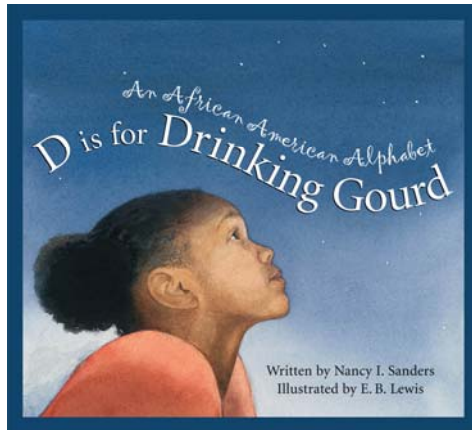


# Teacher's Guide



## **D is for Drinking Gourd An African American Alphabet**

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# *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*

## BACKGROUND BUILDING

Preview the book cover and illustrations to generate discussion of the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout our history. Use the following graphic organizer to list current background knowledge.

After reading *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*, complete the remaining sections of the chart.

*What I Already Know*

*What I Learned*

*New Questions/Topics That Sparked My Interest*

## *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*



### KEY VOCABULARY

**abolish** – put an end to, get rid of

**abolitionist** – person who wanted to put an end to slavery

**emancipation** – setting free from slavery

**jubilee** – time of rejoicing; celebration

**proclamation** – an official public announcement

**segregate** – separate from others, keep apart

**integrate** – join together, combine, bring together

**opposition** – action against, resistance, unfriendliness

**discrimination** – unfair treatment of people on the basis of prejudice

Read the words below and cross out what word or phrase *does not* belong or have a meaning similar to the bold-faced vocabulary word.

1. **abolish** – do away with – keep – stop
2. **abolitionist** – person in favor of slavery – person against slavery
3. **emancipation** – freedom – release – captivity
4. **jubilee** – time of sorrow – celebration – time of rejoicing
5. **proclamation** – announcement – private statement – public statement
6. **segregate** – isolate – separate – join together
7. **integrate** – break up – put together – combine
8. **opposition** – resistance – friendliness – conflict
9. **discrimination** – acceptance – unfairness – prejudice

*D is for Drinking Gourd:  
An African American Alphabet*



**Vocabulary**

Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence.  
Write it on the line.

1. It was a day of (rejoicing) \_\_\_\_\_  
when the slaves were granted their freedom.
2. The mob gave (resistance) \_\_\_\_\_  
to the police.
3. Frederick Douglass, (person against slavery),  
an \_\_\_\_\_, spoke about the cruelty  
of slavery.
4. Sojourner Truth help to (stop) \_\_\_\_\_  
slavery by giving speeches.
5. Do you think it would be fair to (separate) \_\_\_\_\_  
classes because of race or religion?
6. The (official document that ended slavery), \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ was issued by President Lincoln.
7. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
helps protect people from (unfair treatment) \_\_\_\_\_.
8. It took courage to be among the first students to (join) \_\_\_\_\_  
into the school system of Little Rock, Arkansas.

VOCABULARY

abolish  
abolitionist  
Emancipation  
jubilee  
discrimination  
integrate  
Proclamation  
segregate  
opposition



The publication of *The North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper, was an important step in giving African Americans a voice against slavery.

Use the following layout and create your own newspaper focusing on the people, events, and achievements that are showcased in *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet*.

1. With a partner or in a small group decide on a name for your newspaper.

Suggested Names

- The North Star Reporter
- The Drinking Gourd Post
- The Free Press
- United We Stand Press
- The Freedom Tribune

2. Using *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* as your source for possible topics, write articles for each section of the newspaper. See the chart below for suggestions. Not all letter page suggestions need to be included in your newspaper.

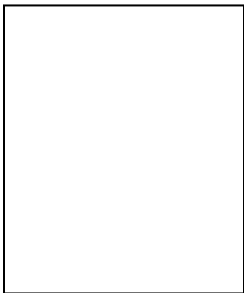
	Letter page in <i>D is for Drinking Gourd</i>
Front page	A, E, L, I
In the News	B, D, G, P, T, U, X
Editorial	F, M, S, V
Lifestyle	K, N, Q, R, Y, Z
Entertainment	H, J, W
Sports Spotlight	C, O

### Newspaper Article Writing Tips

- Write a catchy, attention-getting headline.
- Use the five W's and an H in your article.  
Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
- Be an investigative reporter.  
Research for more information if needed.
- Use vivid, descriptive language.
- Stick to the facts. The news should be an accurate and impartial reporting of the story the way it happened. Opinions are for the editorial section.
- Enjoy your experience as a newspaper journalist!

Edited By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Headline*



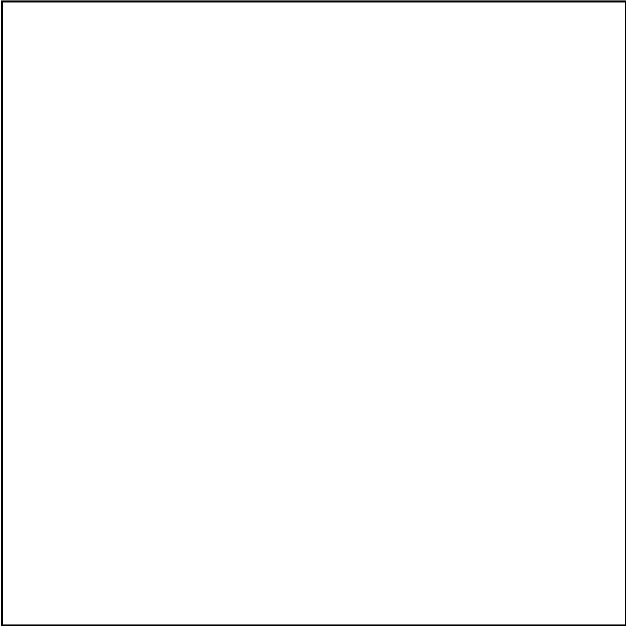
by  
*byline*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*picture caption*



*picture caption*

**Upcoming Events**

Guest Speaker \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# *Editorial*

Headline \_\_\_\_\_

## **Featured Editorial**

*Why is this a problem?  
What can be done about it?*

by \_\_\_\_\_  
byline \_\_\_\_\_

## **Opinion Poll**

*Do you agree or disagree with  
the following statement?*

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Agree

Disagree

# *Lifestyle*

Headline \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_  
byline \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ *picture caption*

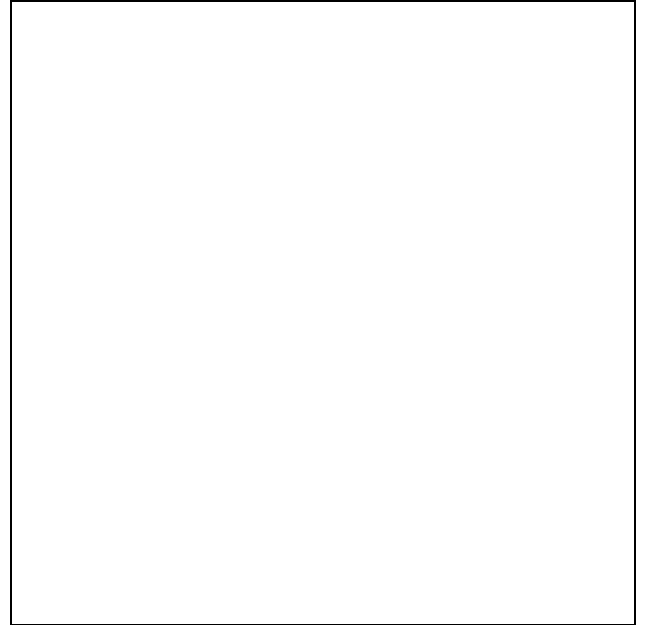
# *Entertainment*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Headline*

by \_\_\_\_\_

*byline*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
*picture caption*

# *Sports Spotlight*



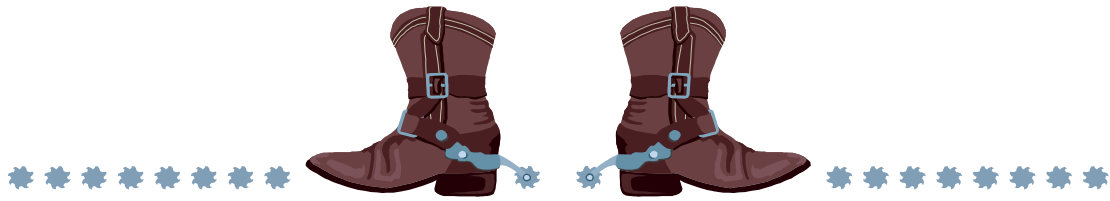
\_\_\_\_\_  
*picture caption*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Headline*

by \_\_\_\_\_

*byline*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Howdy partner!

Turn to page C of *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* and round up the wild, Wild West.

List three facts in the frame below.

# Following the Drinking Gourd



In the silence and darkness of night, runaway slaves relied on the Underground Railroad for safe passage. The success of the Underground Railroad depended on people being extremely careful and secretive.

Messages were sent through songs using the words in the song as code. Secret signals included a light in the window or a gourd hanging by a door, meaning it was safe to enter a house.

The “conductors” of the Underground Railroad also communicated by means of secret codes or signals. For example, receiving a message stating that two large hams would be arriving, truly meant two adult runaways were on their way and needing a safe place to hide.

## Crack the Code

Solve the math problems and use the code to solve the missing word puzzle.

Runaway slaves traveling with “conductors” on the Underground Railroad often wore \_\_\_\_\_.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Answer

Letter

- 1.)  $12 \sim 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.)  $3 \times 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.)  $29 - 10 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.)  $13 - 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.)  $3 \times 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.)  $45 \sim 5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.)  $12 + 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.)  $35 \sim 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
- 9.)  $1 \times 19 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

# From Station to Station

## On the Underground Railroad

<b>Characters</b> - Narrator 1	Narrator 2
Eli	Father
Ben	Marshall

**Setting** – 1850s, in a barn

---

**Narrator 1:** The sun is beginning to set as Eli races from his house to the barn. In his rush, he knocks off a quilt hanging on the porch rail. For a second he is tempted to let it lay on the ground, but quickly turns around and hangs it back up.

**Narrator 2:** For days now he has been looking for some newborn kittens. He is certain they are hiding in the hay, and once again he begins his search. Unexpectedly, he hears a sound and a small section of the hay moves.

**Eli:** Lydia, you better not be playing tricks on me. I see you under that hay. Come out now!

**Ben:** (*jumping out*) You won't take me without a fight!

**Narrator 1:** Eli can hardly believe his eyes. The person hiding in the hay wasn't his younger sister, Lydia; instead, standing before him was a runaway slave.

**Eli:** (*confused expressions*) Whatever are you doing in our barn?

**Ben:** Be quiet boy! I hear someone coming.

**Narrator 2:** Suddenly Eli's father is standing in the doorway.

**Father:** Eli, it's time I let you in on a secret. This here is Ben. We're helping him to freedom. He's been following the drinking gourd and is making his way to Canada. Our barn is one of the stations on the Underground Railroad. You must be extremely careful not to let anyone know he is here.

**Eli:** (*shaking head - yes*) Yes, Father.

**Father:** I'm going to get the wagon. We will be on our way soon, Ben. For now, get back down under the hay.

**Ben:** Thank you, Sir.

**Narrator 1:** Father hands Ben some food and quickly leaves the barn. Before Ben hides, he turns to Eli and points to a section of hay nearby.

**Ben:** Eli, the baby kittens are sleeping right over there.

**Narrator:** Without delay, Ben then hides and not a moment too soon. Riding up to the barn is a U. S. marshal.

**Marshal:** (*loud, cranky voice*) I've been tracking a runaway slave, and I think he might have come this way. (*pause*) This barn full of hay would be a good hiding spot. Mind if I check it out?

**Narrator 1:** Eli is scared and his mind is racing. What should he do? How can he stop the marshal from searching the hay? How can he help Ben escape? Just then, he hears a faint meow.

**Eli:** I've been searching through this hay all morning, and the only thing I found was some baby kittens.

**Marshal:** Now, you wouldn't be telling me a lie? There is a big reward for this runaway slave and I plan on getting it.

**Eli:** Oh no, sir. Here's the kittens right here. You want to pet one? They're real cute.

**Narrator 2:** Even though Eli was full of fear, he stayed calm and played with the kittens. It was enough to fool the angry marshal.

**Marshal:** I can't be wasting my time. That slave is probably down by the river and will be long gone if I don't hurry.

**Narrator 1:** As the marshal raced away, Eli's father returned.

**Father:** Quick, Ben, come out and hide in the wagon. It's time to go to the next station.

**Narrator:** Ben hastily crawled out from under the hay. Before climbing in the wagon, he firmly shook Eli's hand.

**Ben:** You are a fine conductor, Boy. Look up in the dark sky tonight; find the drinking gourd and think of me.

**Narrator:** Eli watched until his first passenger of the Underground Railroad was out of sight. He would now wait for the next passenger to follow the drinking gourd to his station.

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At the beginning of the play, Eli knocks a quilt off the porch railing. Read page Q of *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* to discover the secret signal the quilt may have possibly been sending to Ben.



## Who Am I?

Read *D is for Drinking Gourd: An Africa American Alphabet*, then match the description with the correct person.



1. Bill Picket \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Benjamin "Pap" Singleton \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Harriet Tubman \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Nannie Helen Burroughs \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Langston Hughes \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Madam C. J. Walker \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Louis Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_
  8. George Washington Carver \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Thurgood Marshall \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Nicknamed Satchmo  
Talented jazz trumpeter and singer
  - B. Civil Rights leader  
Strong supporter of nonviolent action
  - C. Known as the poet laureate of Harlem
  - D. First African American admitted to the  
National Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame
  - E. Nicknamed Moses  
Led over 300 slaves to freedom
  - F. First African American justice of the  
Supreme Court of the United States
  - G. Encouraged thousands of families to settle  
in the Wild West
  - H. Established the National Training School  
for Women and Girls in Washington, D. C.
  - I. Invented hair products and beauty creams
  - J. Scientist – invented a variety of products  
from sweet potatoes and peanuts



# POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

*D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* is filled with information and facts about many courageous and highly respected people.

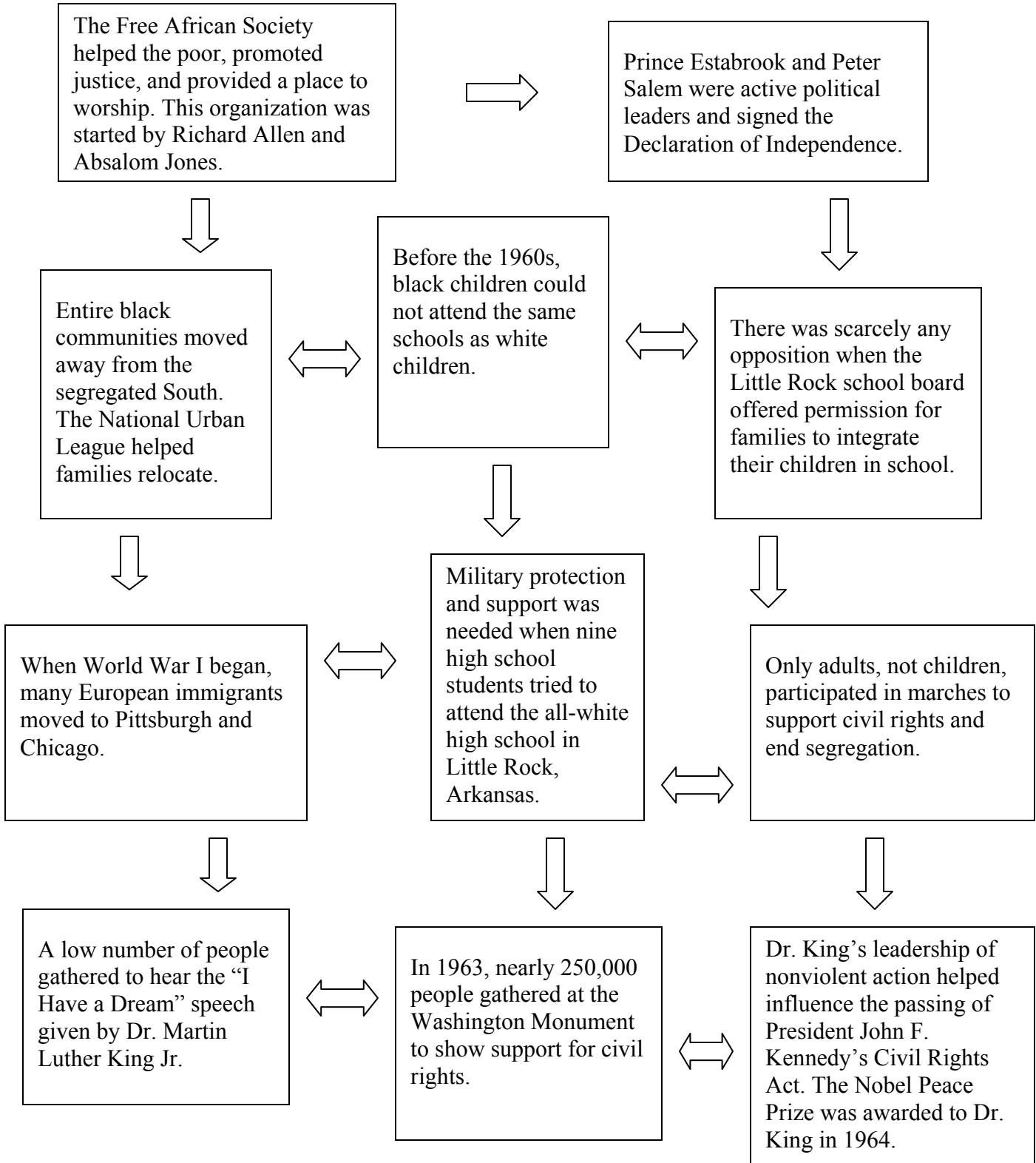
Create a top ten list of people presented in the book you believe are positive role models. Include in your listing the reason why each person was chosen.



Positive Role Model	Reason
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

# FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF EQUAL RIGHTS

Find the path to equal rights by following the trail of **true** sentences. Refer to *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* to confirm the facts.



# DISCRIMINATION



## Pick an Apple Activity

Try the following activity to help students understand that each person is unique, yet alike in many ways.

### Materials

A basket filled with an apple for each student

### Directions

1. Pass the basket and allow each student to pick an apple.
2. After all students have an apple, direct students to return their apple.
3. When all apples have been returned, gently mix up the apples.
4. Instruct students to return to the basket and pick out their original apple!  
(The majority of students will be uncertain.)
5. Repeat the activity, but now instruct students to carefully examine their apple.  
They will notice differences, such as a shorter stem or a mark on the apple's skin.  
This time after students return their apples, it will be easier to identify their apple.
6. Allow students to clean and eat their apple as they discuss the activity.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do we overlook or fail to notice the unique and special characteristics of people?
2. Do we expect everyone to be the same – to look and act the same?
3. In what ways are the apples alike and different?
4. In what ways are people alike and different?
5. Discuss the different cultural habits of people and the importance of these cultural differences to be recognized, appreciated, and respected.
6. Discuss the Golden Rule – Do unto others as you want done unto you.

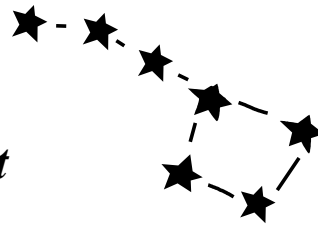
# *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Quilt*

Complete this cozy quilt after reading *D is for Drinking Gourd: An African American Alphabet* by completing each sentence and drawing an illustration or design for each block.

I want to learn more about ...	Page ____ made me feel ...	I was surprised to learn that ...	Page ____ made me think about ...
One person that was interesting to read about was ...			I can relate to page ____ because
Page ____ sparked my interest about ...			One person I will recommend this book to is ...
	My Favorite Page		
My favorite illustration is on page ____	One event that was interesting to read about was ...	If I could travel back in time, I'd like to meet ...	My favorite poem is for the letter ____



*D is for Drinking Gourd:  
An African American Alphabet*



ABOLITIONIST  
CIVIL WAR  
JUBILEE  
NAACP

SLAVERY  
FREEDOM  
KWANZAA  
JAZZ

EMANCIPATION  
JUNETEENTH  
EQUAL RIGHTS  
EXCODUSTERS

J	C	I	V	I	L	W	A	R	J	U
E	X	C	O	D	U	S	T	E	R	S
K	Z	F	R	P	J	E	N	A	M	E
C	M	N	C	E	M	I	Q	R	T	M
N	I	A	Q	M	S	L	C	S	U	J
J	A	B	E	A	J	U	I	J	Q	U
N	U	Z	F	N	A	N	N	E	X	N
J	X	I	C	C	O	E	M	I	O	E
F	M	E	Q	I	E	Q	U	J	L	T
E	C	I	L	P	Q	C	T	U	S	E
Q	R	O	X	A	N	A	X	R	I	E
N	B	J	N	T	P	N	F	C	Z	N
A	I	E	U	I	E	R	S	I	Z	T
R	C	I	C	O	F	B	L	Z	O	H
F	L	J	U	N	U	R	A	E	X	N
S	A	F	Q	J	C	J	V	C	J	A
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	E	I	U	C
C	I	M	N	A	X	I	R	M	B	A
J	A	Z	M	N	S	L	Y	E	P	N
F	R	J	F	R	E	Q	U	C	I	V
E	Q	U	A	L	R	I	G	H	T	S

## Answer Key

### Vocabulary

1. **abolish** – do away with – ~~keep~~ – stop
2. **abolitionist** – ~~person in favor of slavery~~ – person against slavery
3. **emancipation** – freedom – release – ~~captivity~~
4. **jubilee** – ~~time of sorrow~~ – celebration – time of rejoicing
5. **proclamation** – announcement – ~~private statement~~ – public statement
6. **segregate** – isolate – separate – ~~join together~~
7. **integrate** – ~~break up~~ – put together – combine
8. **opposition** – resistance – ~~friendliness~~ – conflict
9. **discrimination** – ~~acceptance~~ – unfairness - prejudice

- |                   |               |                              |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. jubilee        | 2. opposition | 3. abolitionist              |
| 4. abolish        | 5. segregate  | 6. Emancipation Proclamation |
| 7. discrimination | 8. integrate  |                              |

### Following the Drinking Gourd

- 1.) 4 D    2.) 9 I    3.) 19 S    4.) 7 G    5.) 21 U  
6.) 9 I    7.) 19 S    8.) 5 E    9.) 19 S

Runaway slaves traveling with “conductors” on the Underground Railroad often wore disguises.

### Who Am I?

1. D   2. G   3.E   4.H   5.C   6.I   7.A   8.J   9.B   10. F

### Follow the Trail of Equal Rights

True sentences are the following:

1. The Free African Society helped the poor, promoted justice, and provided a place to worship. This organization was started by Richard Allen and Absalom Jones.
2. Entire black communities moved away from the segregated South. The National Urban League helped families relocate.
3. Before the 1960s, black children could not attend the same schools as white children.
4. Military protection and support was needed when nine high school students tried to attend the all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.
5. In 1963, nearly 250,000 people gathered at the Washington Monument to show support for civil rights.
6. Dr. King’s leadership of nonviolent action helped influence the passing of President John F. Kennedy’s Civil Rights Act. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. King in 1964.

Crossword Puzzle

1. First fruits
2. Sojourner Truth
3. Juneteenth
4. Harriet Tubman
5. Thurgood Marshall
6. Nat Love
7. Louis Armstrong

J	C	I	V	I	L	W	A	R	J	U
E	X	C	O	D	U	S	T	E	R	S
K	Z	F	R	P	J	E	N	A	M	E
C	M	N	C	E	M	I	Q	R	T	M
N	I	A	Q	M	S	L	C	S	U	J
J	A	B	E	A	J	U	I	J	Q	U
N	U	Z	F	N	A	N	N	E	X	N
J	X	I	C	C	O	E	M	I	O	E
F	M	E	Q	I	E	Q	U	J	L	T
E	C	I	L	P	Q	C	T	U	S	E
Q	R	O	X	A	N	A	X	R	I	E
N	B	J	N	T	P	N	F	C	Z	N
A	I	E	U	I	E	R	S	I	Z	T
R	C	I	C	O	F	B	L	Z	O	H
F	L	J	U	N	U	R	A	E	X	N
S	A	F	Q	J	C	J	V	C	J	A
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	E	I	U	C
C	I	M	N	A	X	I	R	M	B	A
J	A	Z	M	N	S	L	Y	E	P	N
F	R	J	F	R	E	Q	U	C	I	V
E	Q	U	A	L	R	I	G	H	T	S