

LESSON PLAN: DRAW A NEWSPAPER POSTER – VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY

Grade Level

Grades 4–8 (Adaptable for Adult Education, Alternative Education, and YRC Programs)

Time

2–3 Class Periods

Lesson Title

Virgin Islands Historical Newspaper Project

Essential Question

How can we inform and inspire others about important events and people in Virgin Islands history?

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify key details about an important event, person, or issue in Virgin Islands history.
- Organize information using a newspaper format.
- Use writing, art, and research skills to communicate historical information.
- Demonstrate creativity and historical understanding through visual design.
- Connect historical events to their community and culture.

Kallaloo Framework Standards Alignment

Aims & Objectives

- **CS.C.B.1** – Integrates Virgin Islands cultural education across core subject areas.
- **CS.C.B.2** – Provides students with an understanding of the dynamics of cultural systems as they change over time and as they are impacted by external forces.
- **CS.C.B.3** – Instills Virgin Islands pride within teachers and students.

Content

- **CS.C.C** – A culturally responsive curriculum integrates students' sense of cultural identity and awareness through the use of language, traditions, and environment.
- **CS.C.C.1** – Draws parallels between knowledge and history derived from oral tradition and from books.

Methods

- **CS.C.D.2** – Views students as stakeholders in the teaching-learning process.
- **CS.C.D.3** – Values social learning and the development of interpersonal skills.
- **CS.C.D.4** – Makes appropriate use of modern tools and technology to help document and transmit knowledge.

Evaluation & Expression

- **CS.C.E.1** – Provides opportunities for active learning and critical thinking.
- **CS.C.E.2** – Provides opportunities to preserve the history and advance the cultural customs of the Virgin Islands.
- **CS.C.E.3** – Recognizes the importance of civic engagement.
- **CS.C.E.4** – Makes room for emerging technology in the teaching-learning process.

Connection to the Kallaloo Framework

The Virgin Islands Historical Newspaper Project reflects the goals of the Kallaloo Framework by placing Virgin Islands' history, culture, and community at the center of learning. Students research significant Virgin Islands historical figures, events, and movements and communicate their findings through an authentic newspaper poster. The project integrates history, language arts, art, technology, and civics while promoting cultural identity, Virgin Islands pride, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

Students actively investigate local history, analyze its significance, and share their learning through creative expression. By creating newspaper articles, headlines, illustrations, captions, and presentations, students preserve and communicate Virgin Islands cultural knowledge while developing research, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. The project encourages students to recognize the importance of local history and understand how past events continue to influence their communities today.

Materials

- Poster paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Markers or colored pencils
- Rulers
- Research materials (books, articles, internet resources)
- Newspaper poster template (optional)

Suggested Topics

Students may choose:

- Transfer Day

- David Hamilton Jackson
- Rothschild Francis
- Casper Holstein
- Ashley Totten
- Labor Rights Movement
- Organic Act of 1936
- Hurricane Hugo or Hurricane Marilyn
- Virgin Islands Emancipation Day

Lesson Procedure

Engage (10 Minutes)

Display examples of newspaper front pages.

Ask:

- What makes a headline interesting?
- Why do newspapers report important events?
- How can newspapers influence people?

Explore (15 Minutes)

Students select a Virgin Islands historical event or person.

Research:

- Who was involved?
- What happened?
- When did it happen?
- Where did it happen?
- Why is it important?

Plan (15 Minutes)

Students sketch their newspaper layout.

Required components:

- Newspaper name
- Date
- Headline

- Article
- Picture or illustration
- Caption
- Byline

Create (1–2 Class Periods)

Students create a newspaper poster featuring their chosen topic.

Share (20 Minutes)

Students present their newspaper posters.

Class discussion:

- What did you learn?
- Why is this event or person important today?
- How does this history continue to affect our community?