

# Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

By Debra Pendleton

## Lesson Plan

### Lesson Subject & Rationale

This book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson will help students to understand the conditions of slavery in the United States. They will understand the feelings of the slaves and the problems faced. We will explore the Library of Congress website listening to actual taped recording of former slaves taped during 1932-1975.

### Standards

- IL.16 GOAL: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
- IL.16.D STANDARD: Understand Illinois, United States and world social history.
- IRA.1.2 ...demonstrate an understanding and respect for cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity in the teaching process
- IRA.1.4 ...illustrate that literacy can be a means for transmitting moral and cultural values

### Materials/Resources

The book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*  
by Deborah Hopkinson  
Computers  
Paper for chart  
Library of Congress website: [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)  
Quilt  
Books about slavery: *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters* by Patricia Mckissack and *Nettie's Trip South* by Ann Turner

### Student Objectives

1. Students will understand the obstacles faced by slaves.
2. Students will understand the importance the history of slavery in shaping our country.
3. Students will understand the different perspectives held by different people during the time of slavery.

### Activities & Grouping Procedures

1. Several days before the lesson begins the teacher and students will construct a k-W-L chart to determine what students know about slavery in the United States and what they want to know. This will allow the teacher to plan her unit accordingly.
2. Teacher will gather students on the rug.
3. The teacher will have a quilt on display, books about slavery, any artifacts, and pictures she can find of former slaves.
4. The teacher will show the students the cover of the book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* asking for predictions.
5. Read the story discussing lives and conditions of slaves, and obstacles they faced in life.
6. Make a chart listing the desires of each side.
7. Discuss the perspective of the slaveholders, slaves, and northerners.
8. Introduce students to the Library of Congress website.
9. Put students in groups of 4 explain that they will explore the section "Slave Narratives" listen to actual recordings of former slaves recorded from 1932 to 1975.
10. Students will discuss their set of narratives then each group will share their findings.

## **Assessments**

1. Students will write reflections in their journals discussing what they have learned from the slave narratives.
2. Teacher will read journal making comments

## **Adaptations for Special Needs**

1. Model journal writing for students with mental retardation
2. Move students with sensory challenges so they can see your lips move and those of their peers
3. Speak clearly and loudly when reading story and giving directions

## **Adaptations for Gifted/Talented**

1. Gifted students will be allowed time to go to library to search for additional material to read.
2. Students may further explore Library of Congress website to find material related to lesson and share their findings with the class.