

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MAKERS



Time: approximately 90-180 minutes (to be broken into smaller blocks of time)

Instructional Goals:

- The student will research and take notes on an African American History Maker using the *PebbleGo Biographies* database.
- The student will write an acrostic poem using the last name of the history maker as its foundation. Character traits and facts about the person will be used for the poem's lines.
- The student will learn the form of an acrostic poem.

Integrated Content Standards:

- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (<http://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/AASL-Learner-Framework-Spread.pdf>)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies (<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards>)
- National Educational Technology Standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)

Materials/Resources:

- **PebbleGo Biographies** online database
- **African American History Makers Research Notes graphic organizer**—copied front-to-back, one for each student
- **African American History Makers Origami Face Template**—one for each student
- **How to Make an Origami Face**
- scissors
- crayons

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Show students the example acrostic poem below for Martin Luther King, Jr. Read the poem together. Ask students if they notice anything special about the poem. Record their answers.

Kind and peaceful man
Ideas of equal rights for all people
Nobel Peace Prize winner
Gave the speech called *I Have a Dream*

Teach/Model

2. Explain the form of an acrostic poem. The subject of the poem is written vertically, so each letter begins a new line. Each line describes or gives facts about the subject of the poem and must start with the letter on that line.
3. Go through the example acrostic poem pointing out the letters vertically spelling the subject's last name and how the letters start the lines of the poem. Explain to students how each line of the poem is telling facts about the subject of the poem.



Guided Practice

4. Tell students they will write an acrostic poem about an African American History Maker based on the information they learn about that person in PebbleGo Biographies.
5. Brainstorm with students the types of information they will need to know about the person in order to write their acrostic poem. Ideas should include facts about the person's life, such as why they are famous, as well as inferred character traits based on their life's work.
6. Give each student a copy of the African American History Maker Research Notes graphic organizer. Review the graphic organizer with students while explaining your expectations for note-taking.
7. Tell students that they will wait to write their acrostic poem and infer the person's character traits until after they have completed their research notes.
8. Demonstrate how to navigate to the section in PebbleGo Biographies on African Americans.

Independent Practice

9. Allow time for students to complete their research notes.
10. Once notes are completed, have students cut along the dotted lines and fold their notes in half. On the back, have students write the character traits the person possessed based on inferences made from information in their research notes.

Closure

11. Have students use the information in their research notes and the inferred character traits to write a draft acrostic poem about their person.
12. Give each student a copy of the African American History Makers Origami Face Template.
13. Display the How to Make an Origami Face as students work to create the face representing their African American history maker.
14. Have students write the final copy of their acrostic poem on the front of their African American History Makers Research Notes graphic organizer.
15. Have students tuck their African American History Makers Research Notes graphic organizer into their completed origami face with the acrostic poem in front, underneath the face. (Figure 1)



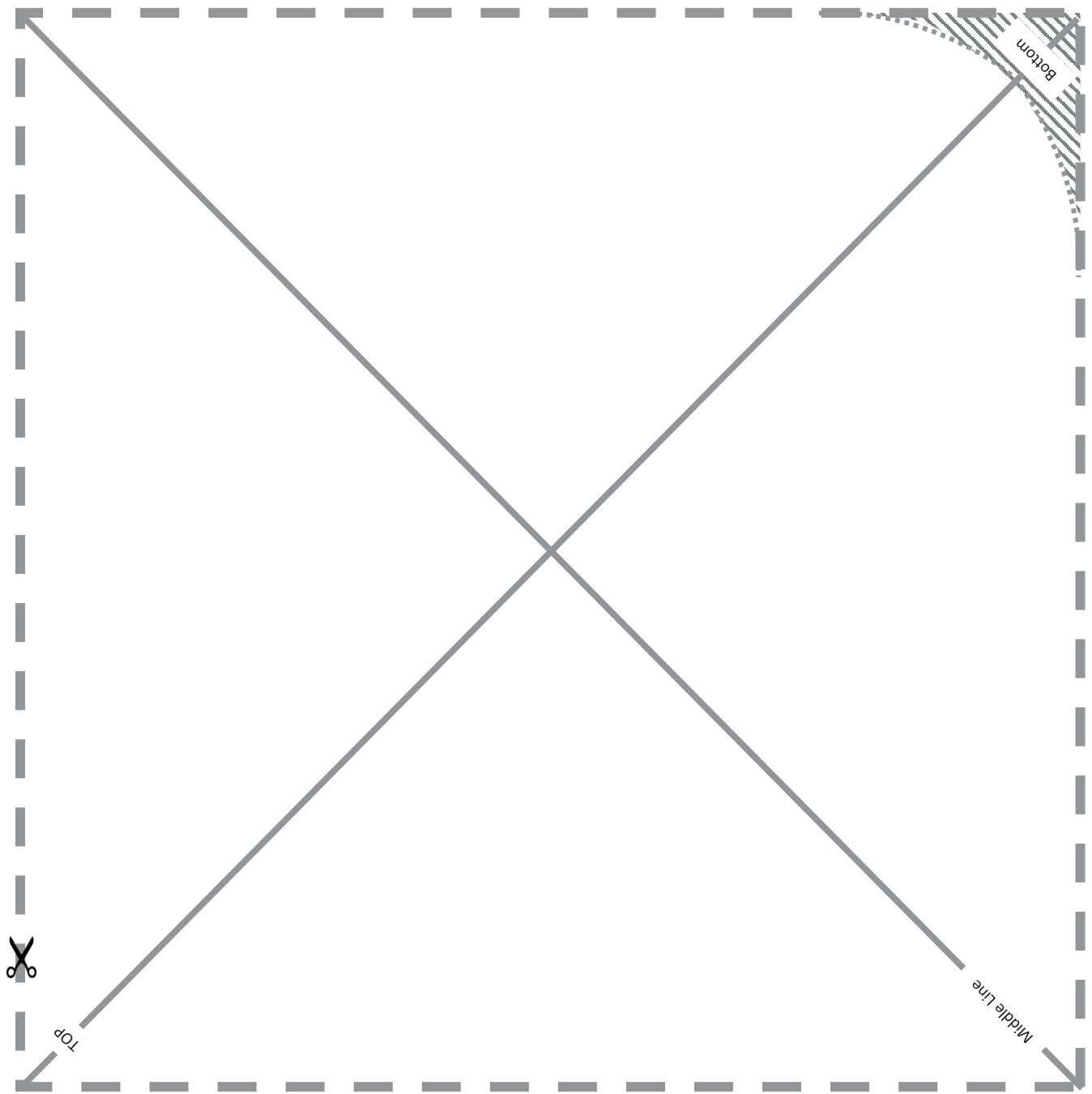
Figure 1 Completed acrostic poem and origami face.

African American History Makers

Origami Face Template

Directions

1. Fold an origami face using the directions from *How to Make an Origami Face*.
2. Decorate the origami face to look like your African American History Maker.
3. Tuck your acrostic poem into your origami face.



Name: _____

African American History Makers

Research Notes (Front)

Directions

1. Use PebbleGo Biographies to take your research notes about an African American History Maker.
2. After taking your notes, cut along the dotted lines.
3. Fold in half.
4. On the back, list this person's character traits.
5. On the front, write an acrostic poem using your person's last name.
6. Follow the directions for How to Make an Origami Face to create your person's head.

Life's Work

Person's Name

Born:

Died:

Why is this person famous?

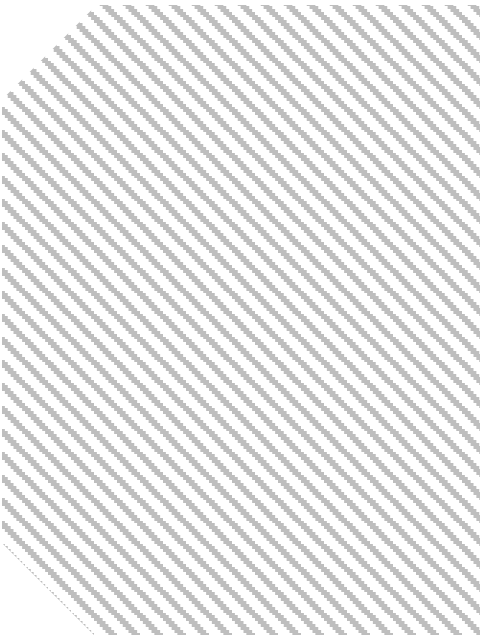
Early Life

Bibliography

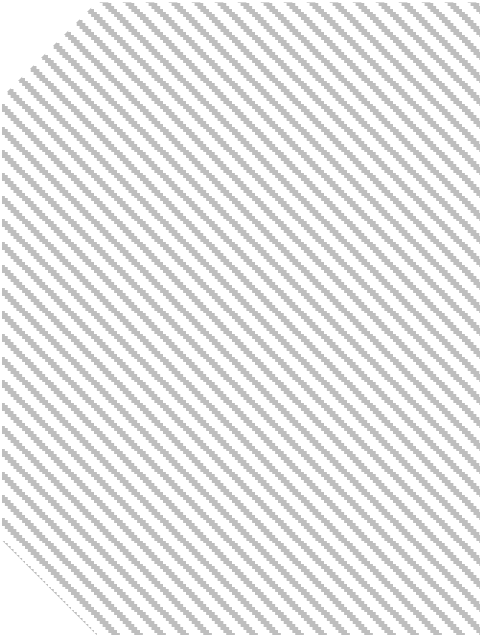
Education

African American History Makers

Research Notes
(Back)

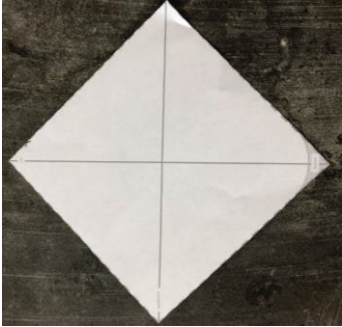


Acrostic Poem

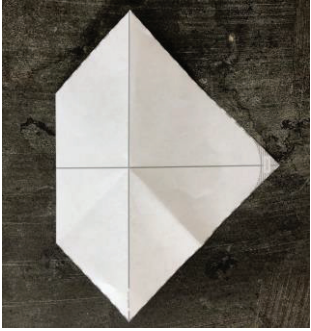


Character Traits

How to Make an Origami Face



1. Cut along dotted lines. Lay flat.



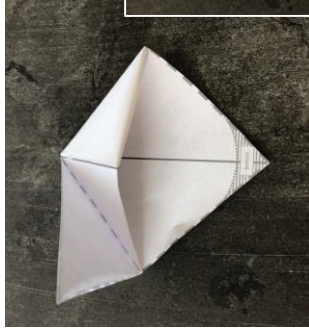
2. Fold the top corner back, to the middle line.



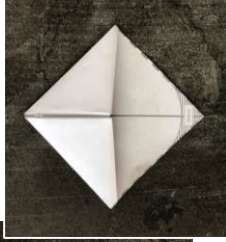
3. Fold forward along the middle line.



4. Fold the side corners down to the bottom.



5. Tuck the corners under.



6. Cut out the bottom section.



7. Turn over to the blank side. Fold back the points.



8. Draw the face. Tuck in the acrostic poem.

