Life After Reconstruction Activity

Teacher Information:

This activity works well with:

* SOL VS.8: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the reconstruction of Virginia following the Civil War by:

a)  identifying the effects of Reconstruction on life in Virginia.

Students will engage in a simulation activity, adopting identities of people alive in Harrisonburg after reconstruction during the opening of Effinger Street school.

Steps:

1. Give some background on reconstruction: the period following the Civil War in America. The main purpose was to “reconstruct” the South after the devastation brought about by the Civil War. There were efforts to rebuild roads, buildings, etc as well as **establishing schools for African Americans** and finally incorporating them into society. President Abraham Lincoln ordered these projects, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and enforced the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments.

2. Give some background for the scenario: It is 1883. Finally, with the push of reconstruction, the first official African American school has been opened in Harrisonburg – the Effinger Street school.

3. Teacher will then explain that students will be given identity cards of people who were alive during this time.

4. After reading their identity card, students will write 2-3 sentences adopting the feelings of the person they have been given, focusing on their feelings towards the new school opening.

5. Students will get into groups of 4 with people who hold different identity cards from them, and share what is written on their card and their 2-3 sentences.

Materials:

* Identity cards

Resources:

McCray, Carrie Allen. *Freedom's Child: The Life of a Confederate General's Black Daughter*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin, 1998. Print.

