

Curriculum Ideas for visiting “Ahmed ‘Kathy’ Kathrada: A South African Activist for Non-Racialism and Democracy”

Time: Take whichever steps you want. Do one step a day for a few days before visiting the exhibit.

Among the areas of the Core Content for Social Studies Assessment that this exercise covers are:

2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.20

Middle School: SS-06-2.1.1, SS-06-2.3.23, SS-06-5.1.1

High School: SS-HS1.1.2, SS-HS-1.2.2, SS-HS-2.3.1, SS-HS-2.3.2

Exercises

1. **Watch** this ESPN commercial: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfpngHyiRZc> and ask the students to create a K-W-L chart (what they know, what they want to know, and what they learned). Some questions to prompt them: “What do you already know about South Africa? What people do you know who are South African? What major sporting event happened in South Africa last summer? Who might the older gentleman in the commercial represent?”
2. **Vocabulary:** give the students the attached list of people, places, and ideas and then do one of two things, depending on the grade level and personal initiative of your students
 - a. **Cards:** write the definition and name on one side and draw pictures for some of the place and match people’s pictures with other ones.
 - b. **Investigate** online a little bit about each word. Find a picture to associate with the people and places. You can use Overcoming Apartheid (<http://overcomingapartheid.msu.edu/index.php>) if you like.
 - c.
3. **Watch** this tribute to Ahmed Kathrada:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7c_Kg2hp5c&feature=channel
 - a. Do you recognize the voice of the narrator? It is Morgan Freeman, an American actor who is very interested in South Africa and who played Nelson Mandela in the movie “Invictus.”
 - i. Extra—Watch Invictus as a class or make it a special treat for students with all their work done.
 - b. **Write** on one of these questions and **share** with peers:
 - i. Why do you think Kathy felt that never seeing children was the worst part of being imprisoned? How would you feel to never be allowed to see your parents or grandparents?
 - ii. Barack Obama visited South Africa as a Senator in 2006. The beginning of the speech he made is copied below . He explains how he got involved in politics— why did he? Is there a big issue in today’s news that inspires you the way that anti-apartheid movement inspired a young Obama?

- iii. The video says that Mandela and Kathy chose “Truth and Reconciliation” instead of revenge. What does this mean?
 - iv. The video mentions that Kathy works for “racial equality” in South Africa. What does racial equality mean to you in the United States?
 - v. Kathy says that in some ways where South Africa is right now—rebuilding—is more difficult than when they fought apartheid. What is more difficult about building democracy than crushing apartheid?
4. **Visit** the museum
5. **Write** a blog post about the experience and share with your class. The class will pick the best one and we will **publish** it on our website, <http://southafrica.as.uky.edu>
- a. Ideas for your post:
 - i. Pick one of the different sections of the exhibit to write about
 - 1. Kathy’s greatest wish
 - 2. Kathy the Food Lover
 - 3. Kathy the Children’s Man
 - 4. Kathy the Gallant (watch this tribute to Barbara Hogan: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvpCf9V1LJM&feature=channel>)
 - 5. Kathy the Record Keeper
 - 6. Kathy the Celebrity
 - 7. Kathy the Driver
 - 8. Kathy the People’s Historian
 - ii. How did you feel while you walked around the exhibit?
 - iii. What did it make you want to do or learn more about?

Vocabulary list

People

Nelson Mandela	The most famous South African. He was a leader in the African National Congress as a young man and then spent 26 years in prison as a political prisoner. He was the first president of the new South Africa, following the end of apartheid in 1994.
Ahmed Kathrada	http://southafrica.as.uky.edu/Guests/AhmedKathrada.aspx
Barbara Hogan	http://southafrica.as.uky.edu/Guests/BarbaraHogan.aspx
Walter Sisulu	A father-figure and mentor to many of the younger activists, like Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada. He came up with many of the ideas that Mandela fought for. He was also imprisoned as a political prisoner.
political prisoners	A phrase used for people put in prison by a government not because they committed a crime but because they said or did something that threatened the security of the state. http://overcomingapartheid.msu.edu/multimedia.php?id=19 (some video interviews with South African political prisoners)

Groups

African National Congress	Founded in 1912, the ANC initially worked within the law to eliminate racial oppression. The ANC was banned in 1960 by the Afrikaner government, but continued to function in exile and underground inside South Africa. In 1961, the previously non-violent ANC adopted a policy of armed resistance, establishing Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). MK. F. W. de Klerk removed the ban on the ANC in 1990 and ANC leaders engaged in negotiations with white leaders which led to the 1994 democratic elections. The ANC is the dominant political party in South Africa, having won more than two-thirds of the vote in the 2004 national elections.
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Places

South Africa	Southern most country in Africa. It has 11 official languages. Its economy is the largest in Africa. The region has the oldest known human remains. Bantu-speaking people (which includes Xhosa and Zulu) migrated to the area about 1500 years ago. Dutch people arrived about 400 years ago and the British about 200. The Union of South Africa became independent from Great Britain in 1909.
Robben Island	Robben Island lies off the mainland south of Cape Town. It was entirely dedicated to being a prison (now it is a museum) that housed both political prisoners and people accused of a crime. It only housed black Africans, people of mixed race, and Indians. White political prisoners were housed elsewhere. Nelson Mandela was its most famous political prisoner, but there were hundreds of men imprisoned with him, including Walter Sisulu (whom he looked up to like a father) and Ahmed Kathrada.

Concepts

apartheid	Literally “apartness” in Afrikaans. It was a whole set of laws that enforced separation of the races in South Africa starting in 1948. The laws included bans against marriage between members of different races, establishment of different regions where each race could live, and restrictions on travel by Africans, Indians, and “Coloured” people. It created a highly stratified society in which whites dominated politically, economically, and socially at the expense of blacks.
reconciliation	1. to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people) 2. to settle (a quarrel or difference) 3. to make (two apparently conflicting things) compatible or consistent with each other
racism	a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others.
racial equality	A society that grants all individuals of all races equal opportunities, does not have different laws for different races, and does not oppress people based on their race

Remarks by Senator Barack Obama
“A Common Humanity Through Common Security”
South African Institute for International Affairs

Monday, August 21st, 2006

Cape Town, South Africa

http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/uploads/LZ/2u/LZ2uTFtuuhfSboQep7g_qw/news_obama_saiia.pdf

People often ask me how I got involved in politics. I tell them that I was not born into a political family; I was not active in student government in high school. But, when I was in college, there was one issue that moved me for the first time in my life to become politically active and play a leadership role in my community.

The issue was apartheid. And, as a young college student, I became deeply involved with the divestment movement in the United States.

I remember meeting with a group of ANC leaders, hearing the stories of their struggles of freedom and their leader Nelson Mandela.

I tell this story, from time to time in the United States, to remind audiences that America simply has not been an exporter of a democracy and freedom. We have also been inspired by the struggles in other nations that have, in turn, helped shape and perfect the very freedoms and rights held dear by citizens of my own country.

The relationship between the United States and South Africa is classic example of this interplay. Mahatma Gandhi began his quest for India's independence here in South Africa. Gandhi's courage and commitment was an inspiration for Dr. King.

The early successes of Dr. King and the civil rights movement, in turn, helped move South Africans, like those in the ANC leadership, to take action against the immoral and inhumane apartheid regime. Coming full circle, the struggles of South African activists in the 1970's, 1980's, and into the 1990's sparked the political consciousness of my generation.

It is likely that I would not be here today speaking to you as a United States Senator had I not met with those ANC members one day in New York City.

As I stood in Nelson Mandela's cell yesterday, I reflected upon his courage, foresight, and conviction. These are the values that laid the foundation for the new South Africa. And, over the past decade, these are the values that have transformed South Africa into a dynamic nation and a powerful symbol that reminds us, each and every day, that across oceans and continents, we all share the desire for freedom, dignity, and a better future.