

History Mystery

How to do it:

Social Studies Content

Significant historical figures and groups

NCSS Standards Theme

Time, Continuity, and Change

C3 Framework

D2.His.3.3–5 Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.

Common Core Standards

SL.4.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Materials Needed

None

Vocabulary

None

- 1 Introduce the activity: "Today's activity is a history guessing game. One student will leave the room, and I'll name a person from the historical period we've been studying. When the student comes back, we'll take turns giving clues to help them guess who the mystery person is."
- 2 Choose a volunteer guesser and send them outside the room. While the student is gone, name a historical figure—for example, Harriet Tubman. Give students a minute to brainstorm clues. Explain that when they share their clue, they'll replace Harriet Tubman's name with "the mystery person." For example: "The mystery person was a conductor on the Underground Railroad."
- 3 Invite the guesser back and have them call on student volunteers to give clues. Reinforce students' positive efforts: "You're choosing details that will help the guesser figure out our historical figure."
- 4 After four clues, the guesser may guess the mystery person's name or ask for the answer. Repeat with other guessers and historical figures as time allows.

VARIATION

- Choose a student to pretend to be the mystery person, and have them call on volunteers to ask yes or no questions about that person. After four or five questions, have a few students guess who the person is. If they don't guess correctly, the student can reveal the mystery person.

EXTENDING THE SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING BEYOND MORNING MEETING

- Have students write "Who am I?" riddles about significant people from a historical period. Use the riddles in a future Morning Meeting.