

## The Kindergarten Chronicles

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## Making History Matter

With Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January and both President's Day and National African American History month in February, winter provides a host of opportunities for us to integrate history into our daily instruction. Because February's issue of The Kindergarten Chronicles will be devoted to Nevada Reading Week, this issue will explore ways in which we can make

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day offers an extensive platform for (H1.K.1 Discuss the importance of working together to complete tasks; H1.K.2 Listen to stories of family members, local residents, and prominent figures to highlight Could Talk the human experience; H1.K.3 Listen to stories of people and families around the world; C13.K.1 Identify and follow classroom and school rules that guide behavior and resolve conflicts; C13.K.2 Identify an individual's rights

within the classroom; C13.K.3 Recognize individual choices.)

Martin's Big Words: The Life of



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport uses language that kindergartners can understand and refers to Dr. King's

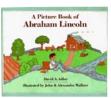
life as a child and as an adult. Students will learn how Dr. King's history fun for our little learners. choices in his childhood helped him become a great leader. After reading about Dr. King's experiteaching history and civics lessons. ences, you may find this is a goodtime to speak to students about their rights in the classroom and with their friends.

> In If a Bus by Faith Ringgold, a little girl named Marcie



takes a magical ride on a talking bus and learns the story of

Rosa Parks. The story highlights the principle that it is important to stand up for what is right, and that there are beneficial and nonviolent ways to resolve conflict.



A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln and A Picture Book of George Washington, both

by David Adler, are simple yet compelling texts about some of our most famous presidents. Both books highlight the major contributions each man made to our country and the world.

Literature is always a great jumping-off point for discussions of civics, history, social responsibility, and how these very broad topics affect even our youngest of students. Through great examples, students can learn how they too can affect change in their world.







Show me the Money! Presidents Day is a good



the task of teaching your students to identify and sort pennies, nickels and dimes, even though it is a third trimester target skill (3.K.4). You can use the profiles on the penny (Lincoln) and nickel (Jefferson) to teach about those presidents. Learning some background information may help your

students better discriminate between the coins.

If I were President... now is a great time to have your students share what they would do if they were president. Only after you have discussed the many duties of the president, make a

class book, with each child contributing a page. Use the prompt, "If I Were President



" and allow your students to compile together in a class book

Take it to the bank. After you've read various literature about presidents, make a circle map of words about the job of being president. Use this as a word bank for your students to utilize while at the writing center. They can write about the job of the president, using words they brainstormed with their class. It's Symbolic. Create a class

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book of U.S. symbols that relate to the presidency (White House, Flag, Voting Box, Constitution, Presidential Seal, etc.). After writing each word on a large piece of paper or poster board, allow your students to illustrate the words, using nonfiction picture books about U.S. Symbols as a reference.