



K-2 | Lesson 15



LESSON 15

TEXT TITLE

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis: Madam Walker Legacy Center

TEXT MAIN IDEA

This text gives us an inside look at why the Madam C.J. Walker theater was created, the ups and downs of the building's lifetime, and how it is still used today.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

The unit essential questions developed through this lesson are...

- What is entrepreneurship?
- What motivated Black entrepreneurs in Indiana in the 1900s?

CONTENT OBJECTIVE

By engaging in this lesson, students will know/understand that...

- The Madam C.J. Walker building was important to the Black community in Indianapolis during the time of segregation.
- The building continues to have a special purpose to this day.

LITERACY OBJECTIVE

By engaging in this lesson, students will strengthen their ability to...

- Understand that informational text contains a topic, facts about the topic, and gives us an understanding of the author's point of view.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

- Identify the main idea of a multi-paragraph text and the topic of each paragraph. (2.RI.2.2)
- Include think-alouds, prompts, and questions (oral and written) that identify an author's opinion or perspective, and ask students to identify and explain which facts the author included to support that specific opinion/perspective. (2.RN.4.1)

LAUNCH (5 MINUTES)

Yesterday we learned about the GREAT Madam C.J. Walker. We learned more about her life by reading her biography. Today we will learn more about the building that still stands tall on Indiana Avenue. This now fairly vacant building is making a comeback after years of neglect and a pandemic. Not too long ago, it served as a central hub for the Black community.

READ ALOUD / ENGAGE (15 MINUTES)

Preview the text.

Based on these key text features we know that this text is informational. This means we are going to learn more information on a particular topic.

Read the first paragraph.

Based on the title and the first paragraph, what is this article going to be about? (Listen to student responses.)

This text is not really about Madam C.J. Walker and instead about the building that was built shortly after her passing that continued on her entrepreneurial spirit.

Read the next three paragraphs.

Let's stop right here. We have learned more information about the structure of the building, the inside of the building, and some more background on the reason for the building. Based on the text, the construction of the Walker Legacy Center is because of what?

Example student responses include:

There was a construction boom of three major buildings that were built that served Indy's Black population.

Read the next three paragraphs.

*I am noticing something about the organization of this article. **Go back through and highlight how this is organized in chronological order.** It is like a life cycle. It talks about its creation, how it contributed to the community, its renovations, etc. I wonder if it is going to talk about it getting "old". Let's keep reading to find out!*

Read the rest of the article.

Oh, wow! I cannot believe this older building sitting on Indiana Avenue has so much rich history! I had no idea that such well known celebrities once walked and performed in the rooms! There is a piece of history that still exists and still is a hub for the community, especially when it comes to the arts and music!

DISCUSS (10 MINUTES)

How has learning more about the building's history changed your perspective on how you see the building?

- In the beginning I just thought it was an old building that no one used anymore. Now I know that the building has a lot of history and it used to be one of the major hubs for Black Hoosiers. It was a place that invited people to come and be in community with each other. It was also a place that brought jobs to the people who lived close to it.

WRITE (10 MINUTES)

How has learning more about the building's history changed your perspective on how you see the building?

Scholars' responses will be some sort of variation of what they answered orally in the discussion.



EXIT TICKET

1. When was the theater built?

- a. 2023
- b. 1927
- c. 1984
- d. 1867

2. Which line from the text best helps us understand the importance of the Madam C.J. Walker Theater during its prime?

- a. "...is one of the few physical reminders of Indiana Avenue's role as the hub of the city's Black cultural, commercial, religious, and civic life during the early twentieth century."
- b. "It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991."
- c. "After extensive renovation—supported by Lilly Endowment Inc. and the U.S. Commerce Department funding..."
- d. "For the next 30 years, the Walker Center offered arts education and programming..."