

Copyright Page

Hidden Trailblazers Teacher Edition

Answer Key, Discussion Guide, Rubrics & Extension Activities

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication. Historical interpretations and educational activities are provided for instructional purposes and may be adapted to meet individual classroom needs.

Credits

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"Be Curious. Be Brave. Be a Trailblazer."

Welcome to Hidden Trailblazers

Dear Educators,

Thank you for choosing *Hidden Trailblazers*.

As a middle school educator, I wanted to create a resource that introduces students to remarkable individuals whose stories are often overlooked in traditional history lessons. While many students learn about famous inventors, explorers, scientists, and leaders, there are countless others whose courage, determination, and creativity helped shape our world.

The individuals featured in this resource faced obstacles, overcame challenges, and pursued their dreams even when others doubted them. Their stories remind students that trailblazers are not always the most famous people in history. Sometimes they are ordinary individuals who refuse to give up.

This Teacher Edition was designed to make implementation simple and flexible. Whether you are using the workbook as part of a biography unit, a STEM enrichment project, Women's History Month, Black History Month, independent reading, or homeschool instruction, the activities can be adapted to meet the needs of your students.

My hope is that these stories encourage students to think critically, ask questions, persevere through challenges, and discover the trailblazer within themselves.

Thank you for sharing these inspiring stories with your students.

Happy teaching!

Jill Lorenz M. Ed
Author and Educator

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Standards Alignment

The activities in *Hidden Trailblazers* support a variety of educational standards and learning goals.

Reading Informational Text

Students will:

- Determine central ideas and supporting details.
- Analyze historical events and individuals.
- Cite evidence from informational texts.
- Summarize key concepts and ideas.

Writing

Students will:

- Respond to informational texts.
- Conduct short research projects.
- Write informative and explanatory pieces.
- Support claims with evidence.

Speaking and Listening

Students will:

- Participate in collaborative discussions.
- Present research findings.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Build on the ideas of others.

Research Skills

Students will:

- Gather information from multiple sources.
- Evaluate evidence.
- Organize information.
- Present conclusions.

Critical Thinking

Students will:

- Compare historical figures.
- Analyze obstacles and achievements.
- Make connections between historical and modern events.
- Evaluate the impact of individuals on society.

STEM Connections

Several chapters support STEM learning through the study of inventors, engineers, scientists, physicians, and aviators.

Featured STEM Trailblazers include:

- Bessica Raiche
- Alexander Miles
- Mary Anning
- Patricia Bath
- Garrett Morgan
- Mary Golda Ross
- Bessie Coleman

Teacher Tips for Success

Before Reading

- Preview vocabulary.
- Introduce the trailblazer.
- Discuss the Essential Questions.
- Activate prior knowledge.

During Reading

- Encourage annotation.
- Pause to discuss key events.
- Ask students to make predictions.
- Connect the reading to modern life.

After Reading

- Complete workbook activities.
- Discuss responses in pairs or small groups.
- Encourage evidence-based answers.
- Complete extension activities.

Fast Finisher Ideas

- ★ Research another trailblazer from the same field.
- ★ Create a timeline.
- ★ Design a poster.
- ★ Write an interview with the featured trailblazer.
- ★ Create a "Did You Know?" fact sheet.

Differentiation Ideas

- Read aloud for struggling readers.
- Use partner reading.
- Provide graphic organizers.
- Allow oral responses.
- Offer choice in projects and presentations.

Hidden Trailblazers Teacher Edition

Answer Key, Discussion Guide, Rubrics & Extension Activities

Introduction for Teachers

Thank you for using *Hidden Trailblazers*. This workbook and teacher edition were created to introduce students to remarkable individuals whose accomplishments changed the world but whose stories are often overlooked in traditional history books.

The activities in this workbook encourage students to read closely, think critically, conduct research, and make connections between historical events and modern life. The Teacher Edition provides answer keys, discussion questions, extension activities, and assessment guidance to support classroom instruction, homeschooling, literature circles, and independent study.

While some workbook questions have specific answers, many are intentionally open-ended. Students should be encouraged to support their responses with evidence from the text, prior knowledge, and thoughtful reasoning.

Suggested Grade Levels

Grades 4–8

Suggested Uses

- Biography studies
- Women’s History Month
- Black History Month
- STEM enrichment
- Research projects
- Independent reading units
- Homeschool curriculum
- Book clubs

Teacher Tip

Remind students that trailblazers are not always the most famous people in history. Many important contributors faced obstacles that prevented them from receiving recognition during their

Chapter 1: Bessica Raiche

Aviator, Inventor, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Bessica Raiche's contributions to aviation.
- Describe challenges women faced in the early 1900s.
- Analyze how perseverance and innovation helped Bessica achieve her goals.
- Understand the role of experimentation in early flight.

Essential Questions

- What makes someone a trailblazer?
- Why do some pioneers receive more recognition than others?
- How does perseverance help people overcome barriers?

Vocabulary Support

Aviator – A person who flies an aircraft.

Biplane – An airplane with two sets of wings.

Inventor – A person who creates something new.

Perseverance – Continuing to work toward a goal despite challenges.

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. What materials did Bessica and her husband use to build their airplane?

Bamboo, silk, wire, and other lightweight materials commonly used in early aircraft construction.

2. Why did Bessica and her husband have to remove the front of their house?

Their airplane was too large to fit through the doorway, so part of the house had to be removed to get the aircraft outside.

3. In what year and place did Bessica make her famous flight?

1910 in Mineola, New York.

4. Why do you think it was unusual for a woman to fly an airplane in 1910?

Women were rarely encouraged to become pilots, engineers, or inventors during that time. Society expected women to follow more traditional roles.

Think About It

Sample Response

Bessica Raiche showed courage by pursuing aviation when very few women were involved in flight. She helped build her own airplane and became one of the first American women to fly. Her determination helped open doors for future female aviators.

History Detective

Why do you think Bessica Raiche is not as famous today as some other early pilots?

Possible Response:

Many history books focused on male pilots such as the Wright brothers and other well-known aviators. As a result, Bessica's accomplishments were often overlooked.

What evidence shows Bessica was an inventor as well as a pilot?

Possible Response:

She helped design and construct her own airplane instead of simply flying one built by someone else.

Think Like a Historian

How do historians piece together the story of someone whose records are incomplete?

Sample Response:

Historians examine newspapers, photographs, letters, government records, journals, interviews, and artifacts. They compare multiple sources to build the most accurate picture possible.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Timeline Project

Students should include at least six major events such as:

- Birth
- Medical education
- Marriage
- Construction of airplane
- Historic flight
- Later accomplishments

Excellent Project Criteria

- Accurate dates
 - Detailed explanations
 - Clear organization
 - Visual appeal
 - Evidence of research
-

Extension Activities

STEM Connection

Investigate how airplanes generate lift.

Women's History Connection

Research another female aviation pioneer and compare her experiences with Bessica's.

Writing Extension

Write a newspaper article announcing Bessica's historic flight.

Chapter 2: Matthew Henson

Explorer, Innovator, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Describe Matthew Henson’s contributions to Arctic exploration.
- Understand the importance of teamwork and cultural learning.
- Analyze how perseverance helped Henson overcome obstacles.

Essential Questions

- Why is teamwork important during exploration?
- What can explorers learn from local cultures?
- How does bias affect historical recognition?

Vocabulary Support

Explorer, Arctic, Expedition, Perseverance

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. What skills did Matthew Henson learn while working on a ship?

Navigation, sailing, map reading, and practical survival skills.

2. What important things did the Inuit people teach Matthew Henson?

Dog sledding, Arctic travel, hunting, survival skills, and local knowledge.

3. What role did Matthew Henson play on Robert Peary’s expeditions?

He served as a skilled explorer, navigator, translator, and key team member.

4. Why were his contributions not always recognized?

Racism and discrimination often prevented him from receiving proper credit during his lifetime.

Think About It

Sample Response

Matthew Henson showed perseverance by continuing difficult Arctic expeditions despite harsh conditions and racial prejudice. His skills helped make exploration possible.

History Detective

Why was Matthew Henson’s story left out of history for so long?

Possible Response:

Many historical accounts focused on Peary while ignoring Henson’s important contributions.

What evidence supports his role in reaching the North Pole?

Possible Response:

Expedition records and eyewitness accounts show that Henson was among the final members of the team that reached the North Pole.

Discussion Questions

- What qualities make a successful explorer?
- Why is local knowledge valuable?
- How can historical bias affect who receives credit?

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students should create a timeline including:

- Early life
- First voyages
- Meeting Robert Peary
- Arctic expeditions
- North Pole journey
- Later recognition

Chapter 3: Mary Walker

Doctor, Reformer, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Mary Walker’s role during the Civil War.
- Describe challenges faced by women in medicine.
- Analyze how reformers create social change.

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to stand up for your beliefs?
- How can one person challenge unfair expectations?

- Why is courage important in times of conflict?

Vocabulary Support

Surgeon, Reformer, Prisoner of War, Courage

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. Why did many people doubt Mary Walker?

Many people believed women should not become doctors or serve in military settings.

2. What happened when she was captured?

She became a prisoner of war and was later exchanged.

3. What special honor did she receive?

The Medal of Honor.

4. Why did some people criticize her clothing?

She wore practical clothing, including pants, which challenged social expectations of the time.

Think About It

Sample Response

Mary Walker stood up for what she believed by becoming a doctor despite criticism. She served wounded soldiers during the Civil War and continued advocating for women's rights throughout her life.

History Detective

Why was it difficult for women to become doctors in the 1800s?

Most medical schools refused to admit women, and many people believed women were not capable of practicing medicine.

Evidence of Courage

Mary worked near battlefields, treated injured soldiers, and continued her work even after becoming a prisoner of war.

Discussion Questions

- What does courage look like?
 - Why do social changes often face resistance?
 - How can one person influence society?
-

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students may create:

- Historical timeline
 - Reform movement poster
 - Biography presentation
 - Women's rights research project
-

Extension Activities

Civil War Connection

Research medical practices during the Civil War.

Writing Extension

Write a speech Mary Walker might have given about women's rights.

Compare and Contrast

Compare Mary Walker with Patricia Bath. How did both women overcome barriers in medicine?

Chapter 4: Alexander Miles

Inventor, Innovator, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain how Alexander Miles improved elevator safety.
- Understand the purpose of patents and inventions.
- Analyze how inventors solve everyday problems.
- Recognize how innovation can improve public safety.

Essential Questions

- How do inventors identify problems worth solving?
- Why are safety inventions important?
- How can one invention affect millions of people?

Vocabulary Support

Inventor – A person who creates something new.

Patent – A legal document protecting an inventor's rights.

Elevator Shaft – The vertical space where an elevator moves.

Innovation – A new idea or improvement.

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. What dangerous problem did early elevators have?

Elevator shaft doors could remain open, creating a serious risk of falling into the shaft.

2. What gave Alexander Miles the idea to make elevators safer?

He noticed the danger posed by open elevator shafts and wanted to prevent accidents.

3. What did Alexander Miles's invention do?

His invention automatically opened and closed elevator doors.

4. Why did Alexander Miles not receive the recognition he deserved during his lifetime?

Racial discrimination often prevented Black inventors from receiving full credit for their achievements.

Think About It

Sample Response

Alexander Miles saw a dangerous problem that many people accepted as normal. Instead of ignoring it, he designed a safer system that continues to protect people today.

History Detective

Why were many Black inventors left out of history books?

Many historians focused on the accomplishments of white inventors and failed to recognize contributions made by Black innovators.

Evidence that his invention remains important today

Modern elevators still use automatic door systems based on the same safety concept introduced by Miles.

Think Like a Historian

How do inventors turn ideas into real inventions?

Inventors identify a problem, study possible solutions, test designs, make improvements, and often obtain patents to protect their work.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Timeline Project Suggestions

Students may include:

- Early life
- Business career
- Elevator safety observations
- Patent application
- Public use of invention
- Modern impact

Discussion Questions

- Why is safety often overlooked until accidents occur?
- How do inventors improve everyday life?
- Why should forgotten inventors be remembered?

Extension Activities

STEM Connection

Research how modern elevators work.

Engineering Challenge

Design a safer version of a common object.

Writing Extension

Write a newspaper article announcing Alexander Miles's invention.

Chapter 5: Mary Anning

Fossil Hunter, Scientist, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Mary Anning's contributions to paleontology.
- Understand how fossils help scientists study the past.
- Analyze how curiosity leads to scientific discovery.
- Recognize challenges faced by women in science.

Essential Questions

- How do fossils teach us about ancient life?
- Why is curiosity important in science?
- Why do some scientists receive less recognition than others?

Vocabulary Support

Fossil – Preserved remains or traces of ancient life.

Paleontology – The study of ancient life through fossils.

Ichthyosaur – An extinct marine reptile.

Extinct – No longer existing.

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. Who taught Mary Anning how to search for fossils?

Her father taught her to search along the cliffs near Lyme Regis.

2. What important discovery did Mary make at age 12?

She discovered an ichthyosaur skeleton.

3. Why did Mary not receive credit for many discoveries?

Many scientists ignored her contributions because she was a woman and came from a poor family.

4. Why did she continue searching despite the dangers?

She loved learning about fossils and needed the income from selling discoveries.

Think About It

Sample Response

Mary Anning demonstrated both curiosity and courage. She continued exploring dangerous cliffs and contributed important scientific discoveries despite receiving little recognition.

History Detective

Why were wealthy scientists able to take credit for her work?

Many scientists had more education, influence, and social status than Mary, allowing them to publish discoveries under their own names.

Evidence Mary was a scientist

She carefully observed fossils, collected evidence, recorded findings, and contributed new knowledge about prehistoric life.

Think Like a Historian

How do fossils help scientists understand the past?

Fossils provide evidence about extinct species, ancient environments, and how life has changed over time.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Timeline Project Suggestions

Students may include:

- Birth in Lyme Regis
 - Learning fossil hunting
 - Discovery of ichthyosaur
 - Discovery of plesiosaur
 - Contributions to paleontology
 - Legacy and recognition
-

Discussion Questions

- Why is careful observation important in science?
 - How can curiosity lead to discovery?
 - Why should scientists receive proper credit?
-

Extension Activities

Science Connection

Research another fossil discovery.

STEM Connection

Create a fossil excavation simulation.

Writing Extension

Write a journal entry from Mary's perspective after making a major discovery.

Chapter 6: Patricia Bath

Doctor, Inventor, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Patricia Bath's contributions to medicine.
- Understand the importance of equal access to healthcare.
- Analyze how innovation improves lives.
- Recognize barriers faced by women and minorities in STEM fields.

Essential Questions

- Why should healthcare be available to everyone?
- How do medical inventions improve lives?
- What qualities help people become successful inventors?

Vocabulary Support

Ophthalmologist – A doctor who specializes in eye care.

Cataract – Clouding of the eye's lens that can cause blindness.

Patent – Legal protection for an invention.

Compassion – Concern for the well-being of others.

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. What did Patricia Bath notice in her community?

People in underserved communities experienced higher rates of vision loss.

2. What is community ophthalmology?

A system that brings eye care services directly into communities that need them.

3. What did Patricia Bath invent?

The Laserphaco Probe, a device used to remove cataracts and restore vision.

4. Why did Patricia remain focused despite obstacles?

She wanted to help people and believed everyone deserved access to quality eye care.

Think About It

Sample Response

Patricia Bath used her medical knowledge and compassion to improve lives. Her invention restored sight to many patients while her advocacy helped expand access to eye care.

History Detective

Why was Patricia often the only woman or Black student in her classes?

Opportunities in science and medicine were often limited for women and people of color during that time.

Evidence her work helped people around the world

The Laserphaco Probe became widely used and helped restore vision to patients internationally.

Think Like a Historian

How do doctors and historians learn about medical breakthroughs?

They study research papers, patents, interviews, hospital records, and scientific publications.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Timeline Project Suggestions

Students may include:

- Childhood interest in science
 - Medical education
 - Development of community ophthalmology
 - Cataract research
 - Patent award
 - Lasting impact on medicine
-

Discussion Questions

- Why is fairness important in healthcare?
 - How do inventions improve quality of life?
 - What obstacles did Patricia overcome?
-

Extension Activities

STEM Connection

Research how the human eye works.

Medical Innovation Challenge

Design a tool that could help doctors care for patients.

Writing Extension

Write a speech encouraging young people to pursue careers in science and medicine.

Chapter 7: Garrett Morgan

Inventor, Businessman, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Garrett Morgan's contributions to public safety.
- Understand how inventions can save lives.
- Analyze the importance of persistence and creativity.
- Recognize challenges faced by Black inventors.

Essential Questions

- How can inventions make communities safer?
- Why is creativity important in solving problems?
- Why do some inventors receive less recognition than others?

Vocabulary Support

Inventor – A person who creates something new.

Patent – Legal protection for an invention.

Traffic Signal – A device that controls traffic flow.

Safety Hood – A breathing device that protects users from smoke and dangerous fumes.

Check Your Understanding Answers

1. What problem with early traffic signals did Garrett Morgan solve?

Early traffic signals lacked a warning phase, leading to accidents. Morgan developed a three-position signal that improved safety.

2. What was the safety hood?

An early breathing device that allowed people to breathe in smoke-filled environments.

3. What brave thing did Garrett Morgan do during the Lake Erie tunnel disaster?

He used his safety hood to help rescue trapped workers.

4. Why did Garrett Morgan sometimes hire others to demonstrate his products?

Racial prejudice sometimes made people less willing to purchase products from a Black inventor.

Think About It

Sample Response

Garrett Morgan identified dangerous situations and created practical solutions. His inventions helped save lives and improve safety for countless people.

History Detective

Why was Garrett Morgan's name often left out of history books?

Racial discrimination contributed to many of his accomplishments being overlooked.

Evidence that Garrett Morgan was a hero

He risked his own safety to rescue workers trapped during the tunnel disaster.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students may create:

- Invention timeline
 - Safety invention poster
 - Public safety campaign
 - Biography presentation
-

Extension Activities

STEM Connection

Research how modern traffic lights work.

Engineering Challenge

Design a device that improves safety in your school.

Writing Extension

Write a newspaper article about Garrett Morgan's tunnel rescue.

Chapter 8: Colonel Pearl Tucker

Military Leader, Pilot, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Describe Pearl Tucker's military accomplishments.
- Understand the importance of leadership and service.
- Analyze how perseverance helps people break barriers.
- Recognize the role of women in military history.

Essential Questions

- What makes an effective leader?
- How does service benefit a community?
- Why is representation important?

Vocabulary Support

Colonel – A high-ranking military officer.

Leadership – Guiding and inspiring others toward a goal.

Service – Work performed to help others.

Perseverance – Continuing despite challenges.

Check Your Understanding Answers

Teacher Note

Accept responses supported by details from the chapter. Students should demonstrate understanding of Pearl Tucker's military service, leadership, and contributions.

Think About It

Sample Response

Pearl Tucker demonstrated determination by pursuing opportunities that were not always available to women. Her leadership inspired others and helped expand opportunities for future generations.

History Detective

What obstacles did women face in military careers?

Women often faced limited opportunities, stereotypes, and barriers to advancement.

Evidence of leadership

Students may reference her service record, promotions, responsibilities, and influence on others.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students may create:

- Leadership timeline
 - Military history presentation
 - Women in service research project
 - Leadership qualities poster
-

Extension Activities

Leadership Activity

Identify qualities that make an effective leader.

Research Connection

Compare Pearl Tucker's experiences with another military pioneer.

Writing Extension

Write a speech about leadership and service.

Chapter 9: Mary Golda Ross

Engineer, Scientist, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Mary Golda Ross's contributions to aerospace engineering.
- Understand the importance of STEM careers.
- Analyze how mathematics and science support innovation.
- Recognize barriers faced by women in engineering.

Essential Questions

- Why are engineers important?
- How does mathematics help solve problems?
- Why should diverse voices be included in STEM fields?

Vocabulary Support

Engineer – A person who designs and builds solutions to problems.

Aerospace – Related to aircraft and spacecraft.

Innovation – A new idea or improvement.

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Check Your Understanding Answers

Teacher Note

Accept answers demonstrating understanding of Mary Golda Ross's engineering work, contributions to aerospace projects, and importance as a pioneering Native American engineer.

Think About It

Sample Response

Mary Golda Ross used mathematics and engineering to help develop technologies that influenced future space exploration. She overcame barriers and became a role model for future scientists and engineers.

History Detective

Why was Mary Golda Ross an important role model?

She demonstrated that women and Native Americans could succeed in fields where they were often underrepresented.

Evidence of innovation

Students may reference her engineering work, research projects, and contributions to aerospace development.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students may create:

- STEM career presentation
 - Engineering timeline
 - Space exploration project
 - Women in STEM research report
-

Extension Activities

STEM Connection

Research careers in aerospace engineering.

Engineering Challenge

Design a spacecraft that could travel to another planet.

Writing Extension

Write a letter encouraging young students to pursue STEM careers.

Chapter 10: Bessie Coleman

Aviator, Adventurer, and Pioneer

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Explain Bessie Coleman's contributions to aviation.
- Understand barriers faced by Black women in the early 1900s.
- Analyze how determination can overcome obstacles.
- Recognize the importance of role models.

Essential Questions

- What does it mean to pursue a dream?
- How do role models inspire others?
- Why is perseverance important?

Vocabulary Support

Aviator – A pilot.

Barnstorming – Performing aerial stunts for audiences.

Determination – Continuing toward a goal despite challenges.

Role Model – A person whose actions inspire others.

Check Your Understanding Answers

Teacher Note

Accept responses supported by evidence from the chapter regarding Bessie Coleman's aviation career, education in France, and influence on future pilots.

Think About It

Sample Response

Bessie Coleman refused to give up on her dream of becoming a pilot. When she could not find opportunities in the United States, she traveled to France, earned her pilot's license, and returned to inspire others.

History Detective

Why was Bessie Coleman such an important pioneer?

She became the first Black woman to earn an international pilot's license and encouraged future generations to pursue aviation.

Evidence of perseverance

Students may reference learning French, traveling overseas, flight training, and public performances.

DOK 4 Project Guidance

Students may create:

- Aviation timeline
 - Inspirational poster
 - Biography presentation
 - Women in aviation research project
-

Extension Activities

Aviation Connection

Research modern female pilots and astronauts.

STEM Challenge

Design an aircraft for a specific purpose.

Writing Extension

Write a speech Bessie Coleman might give to young people about following their dreams.

End of Chapter Section

Teacher Note:

Open-ended responses should be evaluated based on:

- Use of evidence
- Historical accuracy
- Thoughtfulness
- Organization
- Effort

Hidden Trailblazers Teacher Edition

Research Project Rubric

Criteria	4 - Exceeds Expectations	3 - Meets Expectations	2 - Developing	1 - Beginning
Historical Accuracy	Information is accurate and detailed.	Information is mostly accurate.	Some inaccuracies present.	Significant inaccuracies.
Research	Multiple reliable sources used.	Adequate research completed.	Limited research completed.	Minimal research evident.
Organization	Well organized and easy to follow.	Organized with minor issues.	Some organization present.	Difficult to follow.
Creativity	Highly engaging and original.	Appropriate and complete.	Limited creativity.	Minimal effort shown.
Presentation	Excellent presentation skills.	Clear presentation.	Some difficulty presenting.	Presentation incomplete.

Biography Presentation Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Speaking Skills	Clear, confident, engaging	Mostly clear	Some difficulty	Difficult to understand
Content	Complete and accurate	Mostly complete	Some missing information	Limited information
Visuals	Strong visual support	Adequate visuals	Limited visuals	No visuals
Preparation	Fully prepared	Mostly prepared	Some preparation	Unprepared

Timeline Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Events Included	6+ accurate events	5 accurate events	3–4 events	Fewer than 3
Explanations	Detailed and thoughtful	Adequate explanations	Limited explanations	Missing explanations
Organization	Easy to follow	Mostly organized	Some confusion	Disorganized

DOK 4 Expedition Challenge Rubric

Students should demonstrate:

✓ Critical Thinking

✓ Research Skills

✓ Use of Evidence

✓ Creativity

✓ Communication

Teachers should focus on the quality of student thinking rather than a single "correct" answer.

Meet Your Own Hidden Trailblazer

Final Project

Students will identify and research a person whose contributions deserve greater recognition.

Possible choices include:

- Family members
- Veterans
- Community leaders

- Inventors
- Scientists
- Teachers
- Local historical figures

Project Requirements

Students must:

1. Research the person's life.
 2. Identify obstacles they overcame.
 3. Explain their contributions.
 4. Present evidence.
 5. Explain why this person is a trailblazer.
-

Women's History Month Extension Activities

Activity 1

Compare Bessica Raiche, Mary Walker, Patricia Bath, Mary Anning, Mary Golda Ross, and Bessie Coleman.

Questions:

- What obstacles did they share?
- What made each unique?
- How did they change opportunities for women?

Activity 2

Create a Women Who Changed History Timeline.

Black History Month Extension Activities

Activity 1

Compare Matthew Henson, Alexander Miles, Patricia Bath, Garrett Morgan, and Bessie Coleman.

Discussion Questions

- Why were some accomplishments overlooked?
 - How has recognition changed over time?
 - What lessons can we learn today?
-

STEM Connections

Engineering

- Alexander Miles
- Garrett Morgan
- Mary Golda Ross

Aviation

- Bessica Raiche
- Bessie Coleman

Medicine

- Mary Walker
- Patricia Bath

Science

- Mary Anning

Students may create a STEM Trailblazer Hall of Fame project.

Official Hidden Trailblazer Award

Presented To:

For demonstrating:

Final Teacher Reflection

Thank you for sharing the stories of these remarkable Hidden Trailblazers with your students.

Use this page to reflect on your experience teaching the unit and to record ideas for future instruction.

Student Engagement

Which trailblazer inspired students the most?

Which activities generated the greatest interest or discussion?

Student Learning

What important historical understandings did students gain?

What connections did students make between the trailblazers and their own lives?

Classroom Successes

What activities, discussions, or projects worked particularly well?

What surprised you most during this unit?

Looking Ahead

What changes would you make when teaching this unit again?

Are there additional trailblazers, inventions, or historical topics you would like to explore?

Trailblazer Notes

Additional observations, student quotes, memorable moments, or future ideas

OFFICIAL

HIDDEN TRAILBLAZER

AWARD

PRESENTED TO

FOR DEMONSTRATING EXCEPTIONAL:



CURIOSITY



COURAGE



PERSEVERANCE



LEADERSHIP



A COMMITMENT
TO LEARNING

through the study of remarkable individuals whose determination,
creativity, and resilience helped shape our world.

AWARDED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____

TEACHER SIGNATURE

DATE

BE CURIOUS. BE BRAVE. BE A TRAILBLAZER.

DEERING
FEATHER
PUBLISHING



OFFICIAL HIDDEN TRAILBLAZER



A W A R D

PRESENTED TO

FOR DEMONSTRATING EXCEPTIONAL

CURIOSITY ★ COURAGE ★ PERSEVERANCE ★ LEADERSHIP ★ A COMMITMENT
TO LEARNING

through the study of remarkable individuals whose determination,
creativity, and resilience helped shape our world.

Awarded this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Teacher Signature _____

Be Curious. Be Brave. Be a Trailblazer.

DEERING FEATHER PUBLISHING





OFFICIAL STEM

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

PRESENTED BY
DEERING FEATHER PUBLISHING

PRESENTED TO

FOR DEMONSTRATING EXCEPTIONAL:



CRITICAL
THINKING



SCIENTIFIC
INQUIRY



PROBLEM
SOLVING



INNOVATION



ENGINEERING
DESIGN

through curiosity, creativity, and a commitment to discovery.

AWARDED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____

TEACHER SIGNATURE _____



★ EXPLORE. INVENT. DISCOVER. ★