

# LESSON PLAN

## Howard Thurman – A Values Guided Life & True American Hero

Estimated Time: 90 minutes

Competency: Provide a concrete example of how knowledge can influence a leader and the course of history

Linked Core Abilities:

- Take responsibility for your actions and choices
- Do your share as a good citizen in your school, community, country, and the world

Lesson Plan Activities:

1. PARTICIPATE in learning warm-up activities. Did you ever wonder how Martin Luther King, Jr. learned about Mahatma Gandhi?

2. REVIEW Lesson Objectives

- a. Describe how Howard Thurman made our world a better one.
- b. Compare Thurman's contribution with Martin Luther King, Jr.
- c. Explain how Thurman's work is continuing to influence thinking today.

3. REVIEW Key Words.

Define key word: disinherited, liberation, meditation, mysticism, reconciliation, and transcend.

4. COMPLETE exercises to assess understanding of Key Words.

Ask a student to write the key words for the day on the board. Inform the students of the key words. Divide the class into three teams. One team will serve as the judge and two teams will work together to write definitions for each of the key terms. Each term will be presented by a different student to the judges. The judges determine if the definition qualifies for a point and the team with the most points wins the key term definition contest.

Test for understanding by asking students to use various key words in a sentence.

5. PARTICIPATE in a lecture/discussion of the lesson.

When a student is prepared to teach the class, have a student lead the class. In situations where only the instructor is qualified to lead the class, engage the students in a discussion of the material. Techniques such as having the students read a paragraph with opportunities to discuss what was read are recommended.

6. COMPLETE practice exercises to assess understanding lesson concepts.

GROUP ACTIVITY -- Have students form an opinion about the life and work of Howard Thurman. Direct them to write three reasons to support their choice. Divide the class and pose the question what was Thurman's most significant accomplishment. Allow sufficient time for each group to develop arguments for a debate and to appoint a spokesperson. Then, conduct an organized debate allowing each group three minutes to present their argument and to address at least one rebuttal. Summarize the exercise; evaluating how each team presented/argued its position. Recognize the team with the best presentation and position defense.

Visit the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco and before you enter view the collage on the front of the building. The students will have a greater appreciation for this unique learning experience when you share with them the real story of that from around the world submitted the photos to make the collage. In the MoAD, watch the film shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor about Howard Thurman. Ask students to write a brief summary of their experience on this field trip. In the summary, explain how Howard Thurman led a "values guided" life.

7. PARTICIPATE in a summary of the lesson (Lesson Review)

1. Who was Rufus Jones?
2. How did Howard Thurman influence Martin Luther King, Jr.?
3. Provide an example of Howard Thurman's contributed to society.
4. Explain the importance of nonviolence in the success of the civil rights movement.

#### INSTRUCTIONAL REFERENCES

See [www.teachpeace.com/howardthurman.htm](http://www.teachpeace.com/howardthurman.htm) for a comprehensive listing of Howard Thurman books and additional resources.