

Digital Snapshot Classroom Lesson Plan: Eudora Welty Photograph Collection

Students Will:

- Understand the importance of Eudora Welty's photography in Mississippi's history.
- Examine photographs using the National Archives Photograph Analysis Sheet.
- Create a short fictional story based on images from the collections provided.

Materials:

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- [National Archives Photograph Analysis Sheet](#), one copy per student
- Paper and writing utensils
- Rubric provided

Preparation:

- [Mississippi History Now Eudora Welty](#)
- [Mississippi Encyclopedia Eudora Welty](#)
- [Mississippi Encyclopedia Fiction](#)
- [Mississippi Encyclopedia Photography](#)

Required Links:

Independent student use:

- [Eudora Welty Collection Series 26. Photographs](#)
- [Eudora Welty Collection Series 27. Welty Prints](#)
- [Eudora Welty Collection Series 28. Welty Family Photographs](#)

Teacher-led use:

- [Welty scholarly essay](#)

Curricular Connections

Grade Four | Mississippi Studies & Regions

4.MS.9: Explain how literature, the arts, architecture, and music distinguish Mississippi from other places.

1. Identify Mississippians known for their artwork, music, architecture, and literature.
2. Describe how literature, the arts, architecture, and music affect tourism within the state.

4.MS.10: Describe the impact of significant historical figures and events in Mississippi's past and present.

1. Cite symbols and explain historical figures that are used in Mississippi's culture.
2. Examine events that are significant to Mississippi culture.

Mississippi Studies

MS.11: Examine the impact of Mississippi artists, musicians, and writers on the state, nation, and world.

1. Identify and describe the accomplishments of Mississippi artists, musicians, and writers.
2. Analyze how Mississippi's history and/or religious traditions have affected the state's artists, musicians, and writers.
3. Examine the role of cultural diversity in the artistic, musical, and literary traditions of Mississippi.
4. Identify locations in Mississippi that have artistic, musical, or literary significance.

English Language Arts | Grades Three through English IV

- *W.3:* Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- *W.8:* Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.
- *W.5:* (grade five through English II) With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

English Language Arts | Creative Writing

- *W.11-12.3:* Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- *W.11-12.8:* Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
- *W.11-12.9:* Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Introduction

To understand the past and see its impact on the present, students should engage with primary sources from past events. For students to truly understand the documents and have the correct context, teachers must first lay the groundwork for this connection. The teacher should begin this lesson with a brief introduction to the life and work of Eudora Welty. A scholarly essay about her photography work can be accessed [HERE](#).

This activity uses collections of Eudora Welty's photography that she completed throughout her lifetime as well as images of the Welty family.

Using an analysis sheet, students will examine the digital images from the Welty Collection. Using images of their choice, students will create a short fictional story to describe the people, places, or events seen in the images. Student work can be displayed online or in the school.

Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson to students by explaining the work of Eudora Welty and the importance of her photography.
2. Expand on the culture of Mississippi during this period and explain the various reasons for the photos.
3. Introduce the National Archives photograph analysis tool to the students.
4. Students should have time to search through the provided images to choose three or four to help tell their story. Teachers may have to facilitate the initial search functions of the website, especially for younger students.
5. Have students examine their chosen images using the National Archives photograph analysis tool.
6. Instruct students to write a short fictional story about the images they have chosen. (The teacher, using the student's abilities should determine the length.)
7. In pairs, students should review each other's stories and provide feedback. If small groups are used, have groups swap to review stories.
8. Have students implement changes from the peer review.
9. Students' work should be displayed either at the school or digitally.

*10 MDAH would like to see feedback on this activity. Please feel free to send outstanding examples of student work to kbaker@mdah.ms.gov.

Rubric:

Category	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Adequate	1 Basic
Construction	The organization of the story follows a logical, orderly progression that enhances the readers' experience.	The organization follows a mostly logical progression that has order and compliments the information provided.	The story is organized but it does not add to the reader's overall experience.	There is little to no organization.
Grammar	Minimal (2 or less) errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar.	Some (3-5) errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.	Several (6-10) errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.	Many (over 10) errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Document Analysis	Exhibits a strong understanding of the key elements in the photograph.	Exhibits a good understanding of the key elements in the photograph.	Exhibits some understanding of the key elements in the photograph.	Exhibits little understanding of the key elements in the photograph.