

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

# How to Use this Teacher's Guide

This document includes a collection of lesson plans developed for teachers of various grade levels by educators with a committed desire to make a difference in the lives of all children. The lessons are designed for use with the DVD entitled *The Historic Journey: "Yes We Can."* While some lessons may be more appropriate for various grade levels, they can all be adapted and used in modified forms for numerous grade levels.

With the same spirit that brought about the momentous election of the first African American President of the United States of America, the combined efforts of these writers are offered to teachers across the nation to help students grasp the significance behind the historic election of President Barack Obama.

The DVD contains images and excerpts of video footage with recurring themes that address an African American experience that began with millions of men and women being forcibly transplanted from their African homeland into a hostile culture of enslavement. It ends with the reality of an African American man being elected to the office of president of one of the most powerful nations in the world.

After centuries of advocating for change, the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, spearheaded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others, led to many visible changes as numerous laws and court decisions emerged. This media presentation chronicles the experience of the visible celebration of people in America and around the world as the promises of

hope met a moment in time when past memories were shelved as our nation elected an African American president.

In the first overview lesson, teachers will find some general information and lessons that tie in with the video. However, more in-depth lessons are provided that look at various aspects of the African American journey. The lessons give teachers a reference document that serves as a springboard for a more thorough study of the African American experience. This document presents an overview that provides a small slice of a massive story about issues and concerns that are still educationally relevant today. Furthermore, examining the historical narrative that led an African American man to the White House is noteworthy.

Be sure to go to the Website for additional information to support teaching the lessons included in this guide.

Each lesson has been correlated to the Indiana State Academic Standards for Social Studies and Language Arts. Indicator numbers are included with each lesson. The complete wording for each indicator connected to the lessons is located in the Appendix section of this document. The Indiana State Standards can be found at <http://www.indianastandards.org/>. The National Center for Social Studies standards can be found at <http://www.socialstudies.org/standards>. Indiana standards can be correlated to the National Standards. In addition, the Common Core standards for Math and Language Arts are referenced.