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# **Pickensville Rosenwald School Virtual Curriculum**

## **Overview**

This virtual curriculum is a 45–60 minute online lesson designed for high school students. It introduces the history and legacy of the Rosenwald School program, with a focus on the Pickensville Rosenwald School (1925–1969). Students engage with historical content, primary sources, and reflective activities to better understand educational inequality during segregation and its lasting impact.

## **Lesson Objective (Overall)**

Students will analyze the historical significance of Rosenwald Schools and evaluate how education functioned as a tool for opportunity within African American communities during segregation.

## **“I Can” Statement**

I can explain the purpose of Rosenwald Schools, analyze the experiences of students who attended them, and reflect on the importance of preserving educational history.

## **BDA Instructional Framework**

### **Before (Engagement / Activation of Prior Knowledge)**

- Students respond to a prompt such as:  
“What does equal access to education mean?”
- Brief discussion on segregation and educational inequality

### **During (Learning / Exploration)**

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- Students engage with the six sections of the virtual curriculum
- They analyze videos, images, and historical materials
- They complete reflection and comparison activities

## **After (Reflection / Assessment)**

- Students submit a written or recorded reflection
- Participate in a discussion on preserving history
- Optional extension: connect learning to their local community

# **Curriculum Structure with Section Objectives**

## **1. Opening Video (7–8 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will identify the purpose of the Rosenwald School program and explain the significance of the partnership between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington.

Students view an introductory video covering the development of Rosenwald Schools and their role in expanding educational access.

## **2. Virtual Exploration: Inside the School (10–12 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will analyze how the design and physical structure of Rosenwald Schools supported student learning.

Students explore a virtual classroom and compare it to modern classrooms, focusing on layout, lighting, and resources.

## **3. Voices of the School: Student Life (10–15 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will examine primary sources to describe the experiences of students attending Rosenwald Schools.

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Students review photographs, documents, and oral histories to understand daily life and community support.

## **4. The Wall of Students: Connecting Past and Present (10 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will develop historical empathy by interpreting the perspectives and possible experiences of former students.

Students select a historical figure and reflect on their life, goals, and educational experience.

## **5. The Living Archive: Student Participation (10 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will synthesize their learning by creating a personal reflection on the significance of Rosenwald Schools and educational history.

Students contribute written or recorded responses to a shared digital archive.

## **6. Continuing the Legacy (5 minutes)**

**Objective:**

Students will evaluate the importance of preserving historical narratives and propose ways to contribute to this effort.

Students reflect on how their generation can support historical preservation and educational equity.

# **Key Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain why Rosenwald Schools were created
- Analyze the role of community in education during segregation
- Interpret historical sources to understand student experiences
- Reflect on the importance of preserving educational history

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