

Day 2: Amanda Gardner Johnson



Amanda Gardner Johnson was an enslaved woman who traveled along the Oregon trail with the Deckard family in 1853. Amanda was only 19 years old when she made the journey to Oregon and she lived in Oregon until her death in 1927. In this lesson students will have the opportunity to listen to and take notes on 4 different sources detailing the events of Amanda Gardner Johnson's life. Working as historians, students will discover that no single source of information tells the entire story.

Using Primary Sources with Students

The objective of this mini unit is to familiarize students with primary sources, and to help them learn how to carefully read and analyze those sources. Through careful analysis and scaffolded questioning, students can begin to understand how historians use primary sources to better understand a time period and a group of people.

One barrier to using primary sources with students is accessibility to various reading levels. Reading each source aloud will help provide access to all students and allow them to practice listening for key details while taking notes on interesting information. Another way to support students when they are working with primary sources is to allow them to discuss what they have learned with classmates. Listening, note taking, and discussing what they have learned will help students retain and build upon new information.

ANALYZING SOURCES:

Using 4 different sources, students will work in groups to create a class KWL chart about Amanda Gardner Johnson. Moving through the sources in a specific order will help students slowly develop a detailed picture of her life.

- ✓ What does this source tell you about Amanda Gardner Johnson?
- ✓ Are there any important dates or places mentioned?
- ✓ How does this source differ from the others?
- ✓ What does this source make you wonder?

MATERIALS: *teachers are encouraged to present materials in this order to slowly build understanding. See source guide for more information*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Obituary of Amanda Gardner Johnson | 3 Article excerpt from Albany Public Library Biography |
| 2 Photo of Amanda Gardner Johnson | 4 Oregon Daily Journal Interview |

GUIDE TO READING SOURCES:

Working in small groups students will follow along and listen to each source read aloud by the teacher. After the source is read aloud once, students will read through the source again in their groups and record two things their group learned and one question they have. The information and questions collected from each group will later be added to the class KWL chart. Depending on pacing and student needs, teachers may choose to teach this lesson over the course of two days.

Day 2: Amanda Gardner Johnson



WHAT IS A PRIMARY SOURCE?

PRIMARY SOURCES are the raw materials of history! Some examples of primary sources include oral histories, objects, newspapers, journals, photographs, and government records. They give us a first hand account of a person, a place or an event.

SECONDARY SOURCES are sources that interpret, investigate or retell an event.

DIFFERENTIATION: Sentence frames to support the conversation

✓ After reading _____ I think _____
After reading _____ I wonder _____

✓ I think that _____ is an important date because _____
I think that _____ is an important place because _____

MATERIALS TO SUPPORT TEACHER UNDERSTANDING:

OPB film Oregon's Black Pioneers

<https://www.opb.org/television/programs/oregonexperience/article/oregon-black-pioneers-documentary/>