

Materials that will support children throughout these lessons:

Journal (somewhere to record all of their thinking)

Folder (storing artifacts, articles, photographs, etc.)

Note: All resources for each session can be found in the corresponding resource folders

Session Five:

Intention: Unpack Letitia's court case against Greenberry Smith with an emphasis on the remarkable courage she had given the system she was working within.

1). Watch the_High Desert Museum video

URL: <https://highdesertmuseum.org/oregon-trail-reflections/>

- Begin at 7:00 and pause to reflect briefly at 7:45

- As a whole group reflect: Letitia deciding to take Greenberry Smith to court is an act of courage and resistance. Given what we know about this story and Oregon at the time, what are some of the reasons that filing this lawsuit was so courageous of Letitia -- and her lawyers?

- If children don't go there on their own, help them to understand the significance of Letitia and her lawyer arguing that she is owed pay for being David's worker. This was a very calculated, smart, move where Letitia is essentially working the system to show that either way she deserves pay.

- Read: Excerpts from Letitia's time in Cow Creek

- Continue the High Desert Museum video from 7:45-8:50

- Turn and Talk: how do you feel hearing about Letitia's victory in court? How do you imagine Letitia feeling at the time?

2). Pass out copies of Strangely Absent From History by Bob Zybach

Before giving the full article to students, read through it and highlight for them the specific sections pertaining to the court case and Letitia's victory in court for them to zoom in on.

Give children ample time to read this article independently. Have them mark it up by highlighting facts that seem important and recording feelings that come up as they read about this court case in the margin.

Have them note key dates in the article and add them to their timelines as they read.

3). Whole Group: Fact/Feelings/Questions Protocol

While children working, bring back the fact/feelings/questions thinking protocol that you began using in Session Two. Add onto it given the new information about Letitia's court case and victory.

4). Primary Source Examination

Have children read through these two primary sources authored by Letitia's lawyer and Greenberry Smith's lawyer during the lawsuit.

- 1). Greenberry Smith
- 2). Letitia's Response

In partners, have them work together to write short summaries of each of their arguments.

5). Reflect

Return as a whole group and read the last section of *Strangely Absent From History* by Bob Zybach

-What is the significance of Letitia's victory in court not being reported? What do you think the impact of this was back then? Now?