



"Discovering Diversity in Medicine Through Iconic Photography"

Grade Levels: Elementary (Grades 3-5) and Secondary (Grades 6-8)

Duration: 5-7 Class Sessions (Adaptable)

By exploring an iconic photograph that symbolizes diversity and transformation in medicine, this curriculum aims to inspire students to recognize the importance of diversity in healthcare and to consider their potential roles in promoting equity and inclusivity in the medical field.

Objective: This curriculum is designed to introduce elementary and secondary students to the iconic photograph of *The 15 White Coats*. While attending Tulane Medical School, these 15 black medical school students took this iconic photo in front of the Whitney Plantation. Through this exploration, students will gain an understanding of the historical significance and the importance of diversity in the medical field.

Session 1: Introduction to the Iconic Photograph

Objective: To introduce students to the photograph and its historical context.

- Begin with a discussion about the importance of history and photographs in preserving moments.
- Present the iconic photograph of *The 15 White Coats* in front of the Whitney Plantation.
- Encourage students to share their initial thoughts and reactions.

Session 2: Historical Context of the Whitney Plantation

Objective: To provide historical context for the Whitney Plantation.

- Discuss the history of slavery in the United States, with a focus on Louisiana.
- Explore the transformation of the Whitney Plantation into a museum that tells the story of enslaved people.
- Explain the connection between the Whitney Plantation and the students in the photograph.

Session 3: The 15 Black Tulane Medical School Students

Objective: To learn about the students in the photograph and their achievements.

- Introduce *The 15 White Coats* and their groundbreaking journey.
- Discuss the challenges they overcame to attend medical school.
- Share stories of a few individual students to personalize the history. Here are a few links to some of the national coverage:
 - [NBC Nightly News](#)
 - [The Kelly Clarkson Show](#)

Session 4: The Importance of Diversity in Medicine

Objective: To understand the significance of diversity in the medical field.



- Explore why diversity among physicians is important for healthcare.
- Discuss the concept of underrepresented physicians in the United States.
- Investigate disparities in healthcare outcomes and access to care among different communities.

Session 5: Research and Discussion on Underrepresented Physicians

Objective: To delve deeper into the importance of growing the number of underrepresented physicians.

- Conduct research on the number of underrepresented physicians in the United States using online resources, such as the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website.
- Engage in a class discussion about the findings and why it is crucial to increase the number of underrepresented physicians.

Session 6: Inspiring Future Change

Objective: To encourage students to think about their role in promoting diversity in healthcare.

- Explore what students can do to contribute to a more diverse medical field in the future.
- Discuss the role of education, mentorship, and opportunities in achieving this goal.

Session 7: Creating Your Own Iconic Photo

Objective: To empower students to reflect on their own values and potential contributions to diversity in medicine.

- Encourage students to think about what an iconic photo representing their values and aspirations might look like.
- Have them create artwork or write essays depicting their vision of diversity and equity in healthcare.

Assessment:

Assess student understanding through class discussions, research findings, and the quality of their own iconic photo projects. Evaluate their ability to make connections between history, diversity in medicine, and their role in creating a positive change.

Additional Resources:

- Websites like the AAMC (<https://www.aamc.org/>) for research on underrepresented physicians in the U.S.
- Books, articles, and documentaries about the history of slavery, the Whitney Plantation, and underrepresented physicians.
- Materials for art projects and essays.