

Teacher Name: Christina Collins
Course/Grade: U.S. History, 9th grade

Content Standards:

SS 12.4.2.a (US) Analyze and evaluate the impact of people, events, ideas, and symbols, including various cultures and ethnic groups, on history in the United States

SS 12.4.2.c (US) Analyze and evaluate the appropriate uses of primary and secondary sources

SS 12.4.3.a (US) Analyze and evaluate how multiple perspectives facilitate the understanding of the full story of US history

Unit Title: Elizabeth Pittman, Legal Pioneer

Concept Based (Enduring Understandings/Generalizations): Pioneers face challenges as they break through barriers. Elizabeth Pittman was a pioneer in the fact that she was the first black female graduate of Creighton Law School and the first female and first black judge in the state of Nebraska.

Materials & Resources: Post-it notes (2 per student), copies of the primary sources for the gallery walk, writing utensils, and notebook paper

Accommodations for Students with IEPs or 504s: Copies of the charts and peer tutors for the questions and gallery walk

Literacy Strategies: Think alouds and summarizing

Procedures/Routine Focus: Hand raising and group work

Anticipatory Set: Write the word *pioneer* on the board or place the word under a document camera. Give each student two Post-it notes. On one of the Post-it notes, have the students write the name of a pioneer, and on the other Post-it note, have the students write a characteristic of a pioneer. Demonstrate the activity by writing your own person and characteristic using the think-aloud method.

Examples of pioneers: Neil Armstrong, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Rosa Parks

Examples of characteristics: brave, bold, and intelligent

Objective/Learning Goals

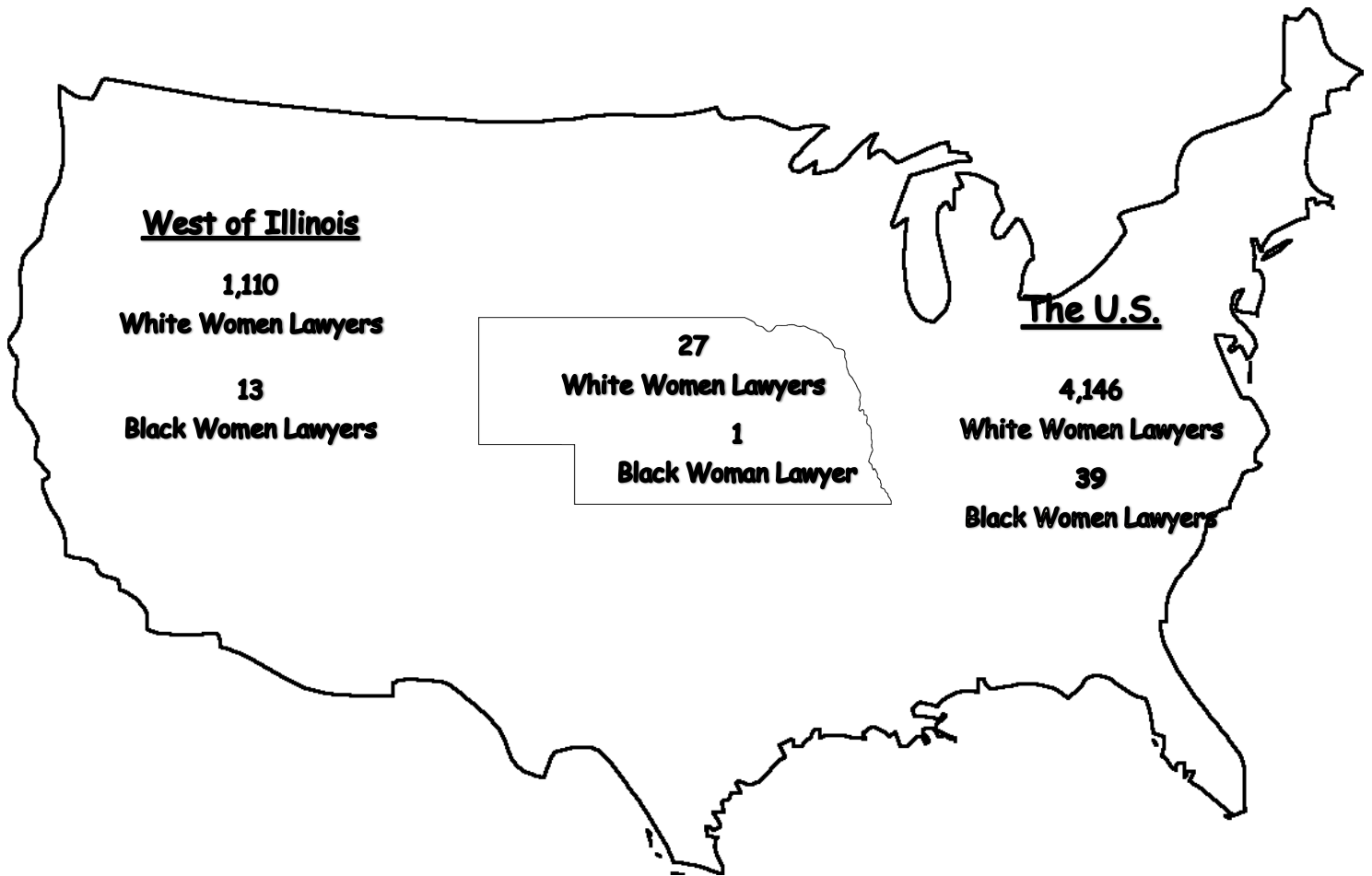
I will know (knowledge): a definition of *pioneer* and facts about Elizabeth Davis Pittman.

I will be able to (skill): use primary sources to answer an essay question explaining how Elizabeth Davis Pittman was a legal pioneer in Nebraska.

| | |
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| <p>Procedures (GRL) Modeled: 1. Lead a discussion of what a pioneer is. (“A pioneer is a person who is the first to do something” is a definition to use for this assignment.)</p> | <p>Shared: 2. Have the students set up the Pittman Gallery Walk chart on a piece of paper. 3. When the students have it completed, use the map of lawyers in 1950 as partner work as an example. Share out as a class after about 4 minutes of work time.</p> |
| <p>Guided: 4. The students will now walk around to the stations to complete their charts. They will have 5 minutes at each station. When the students are at their final station, they will stay there and then share out what the primary source is and how it relates to being a pioneer. Take a volunteer to start off the sharing; then, move clockwise to have the students share out. 5. The students will now complete the “Pittman as a Pioneer” assignment using the web page found at http://invisiblehistory.ops.org/StudentProjects/2016StudentProjects/JudgeElizabethPittman/tabid/291/Default.aspx. The web page can be displayed using the projector, or each partnership of students can use a computer to look at the web page. See the handout for further instructions and information.</p> | |
| <p>Independent: 6. Elizabeth Pittman Essay Question: The students will be asked to write an essay using the following prompt: <i>In what ways was Elizabeth Pittman a pioneer in the legal system of Nebraska? What prejudices and discrimination did she face and have to overcome in order to become a lawyer and later a judge?</i></p> | |
| <p>Summary: 7. Have a class discussion about examples of how Pittman was a pioneer. Have five students share their ideas.</p> | |
| <p>Coursework: Students should finish the Elizabeth Pittman Essay Question for homework.</p> | |

| Station # | Source | How does it show the pioneer spirit? | New facts about Elizabeth Pittman |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Class Example | “Elizabeth D. Pittman, Black Legal Pioneer in the Midlands” | Very few women lawyers in 1950 | Only black female lawyer in Nebraska in 1950 |
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |

1950



Information from: *Elizabeth D. Pittman: Black Legal Pioneer in the Midlands* by, J. Clay Smith, Jr.

Station #1



Station #2

Mrs. Elizabeth Pittman's dream was fulfilled when she was admitted to Nebraska Bar.



Elizabeth D. Pittman Muny Court Judge

Gov. J. J. Exon Friday said he has appointed Deputy County Attorney Elizabeth D. Pittman to the Municipal Court bench.

Exon said he arrived at his decision after interviewing Mrs. Pittman in Lincoln Friday morning.

Mrs. Pittman is the first Negro woman to be admitted to practice law in Nebraska and will be the first black to serve on an Omaha area bench.

Mrs. Pittman, 49, is a graduate of the Creighton University Law School. She was one of three persons recommended to succeed the late Judge Jay Gibbs by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Others were Asst. City Prosecutor John Gutowski and Francis A. Lane.

Mrs. Pittman joined the Douglas County attorney's office in 1964, the first black to do so.

She was elected president of the National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers last year and has been active in a number of Omaha civic groups.



—World-Herald Photo
Mrs. Pittman

The Honorable Elizabeth Pittman, '48
1921 – 1998
***First Black Women to Graduate from
Creighton University School of Law***



Creighton
UNIVERSITY
School of Law

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Judge Elizabeth D. Pittman
Award Ceremony and Reception*

*A celebration of 62 years of distinguished
African-American graduates
of
Creighton University School of Law*

*2010 Pittman Award Recipient
Honorable Johnny Hardwick '76*

*Thursday, February 25, 2010
Award Ceremony
4:00 p.m.*

*Gross Appellate Courtroom, Room 124
Reception immediately following
Schneider Commons*

*21st and Cass Streets
Omaha, Nebraska*

*Please R.S.V.P. to lawevents@creighton.edu
or by calling (402) 280-2872 by February 12, 2010.*

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

Directions: use the web page at

<http://invisiblehistory.ops.org/StudentProjects/2016StudentProjects/JudgeElizabethPittman/tabid/291/Default.aspx> to answer the following questions in complete sentence with details.

Introduction:

1. What is the title of this page?
2. Give four examples as how Elizabeth Davis Pittman was a pioneer.
3. How was Pittman involved in her community?

North High School Yearbook, 1938

4. What challenges would Elizabeth Davis Pittman face as a student at North High School?
5. What activities was Pittman involved in at North High School?
6. How did her High School activities influence her future life?

Elizabeth Pittman Attorney at Law

7. Think about the USA in the 1940's and 1950's. What challenges would Pittman face as a black female attorney during this time?
8. Create a new sub title for the photograph in this section. Make sure your new subtitle accurately describes what the picture represents.

Davis Law Office

9. What is the name of the building her father owned?
10. What two businesses did the building house?
11. If Pittman's father had not invited her to join his law firm, what do you think her chances of joining another law firm in the city of Omaha would have been? Why?

Pittman's Legacy

12. Where is the Elizabeth D Pittman building located?
13. What services are offered in the Elizabeth D Pittman building to students?
14. Do you think the purpose of the building named after her accurately relates to Pittman's legacy? Why or why not?