

What Color Is My World?

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

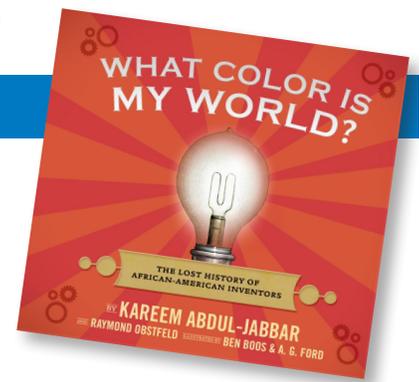
Themes: Inventions, Perseverance, African-American History

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: As they fix up their new house, Herbie and his sister discover how many things that we use every day were designed by African-American inventors.

Authors: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld

Illustrators: Ben Boos and A.G. Ford



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Can the children name any famous inventors? What did they invent? What about any famous *African-American* inventors? Think about the book's subtitle—what does “lost history” mean? Explain that this book will teach them about some very important inventors they've probably never heard of before.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

RUBE GOLDBERG CONTEST (AGES 8-12)

Materials: whatever you have around the center

A Rube Goldberg machine is a complicated machine that performs a very simple task. Divide the children into teams and have them compete to see who can invent the best machine! Pick an easy task (like knocking a cup over); then have children set up a complex chain reaction of as many steps as possible to complete it. Use only what you find around the center. The first team to complete the task with their machine wins! (Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOFc-Dm7U to see a sample machine.)

BOOK IT (AGES 8-12)

Materials: paper, markers or crayons

Dr. Seuss filled his books with whacky inventions. Make a children's book of your own about a day in the life of a student who wakes up one morning in 2050 and is late for school! Include as many

inventions as you can for your character to use as they rush to get to school on time. The more creative, the better!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (AGES 8-12)

Herbie comes up with an idea for a new sport in which basketball players shoot each other with water guns. Invent your own new game or sport! How many people can play? Are there teams? How do you win? Make a list of rules. If you have enough people, play a game or two!

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.inventivekids.com for fun games and resources for young inventors!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT INVENTORS

Neo Leo, Gene Barretta (2009), *The Day-Glo Brothers*, Chris Barton (2009), *Balloons over Broadway*, Melissa Sweet (2011).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS www.rif.org/kids



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