



An Active Partnership with the Woodson Center

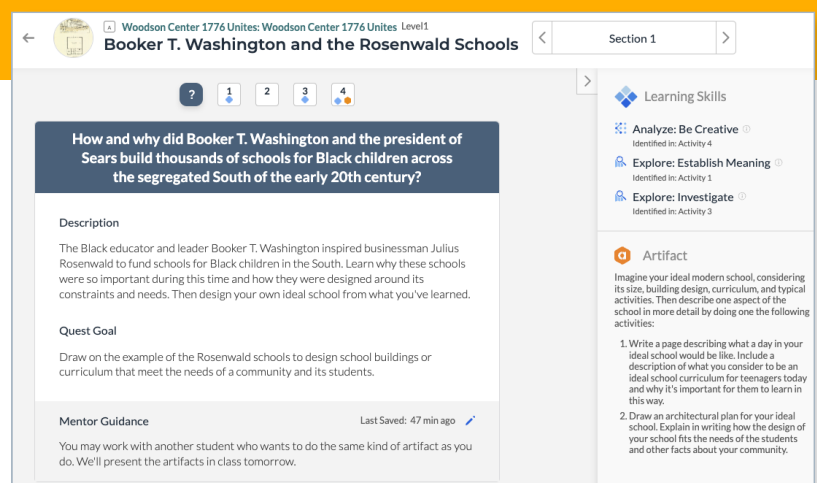


Located in Washington, DC, the Woodson Center has a long history of empowering community-based leaders, revitalizing underserved communities and creating economic opportunities. We value their approach, especially their strong focus on highlighting achievements by Black Americans, and

believe students across the US and worldwide will find these individuals inspiring. Recently, we decided to take a piece of their existing curriculum and design it as an active learning project for students to work on their own, with peers or in their schools.

ACTIVE LEARNING: THE OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION APPROACH

At Opportunity Education, we believe students should take an active and leading role in shaping their own learning. All of our projects are built on interactive and open-ended activities that empower students to choose their own directions while engaging with materials. This approach frees teachers to take on a mentoring role, framing materials and walking alongside students throughout the learning process.



Quest Overview

PUTTING IT IN PRACTICE: BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AND THE ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

We built on a piece of Woodson Center curriculum focused on schools for Black children created by Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald. We designed our curriculum in the form of a quest, where students learn about Washington and Rosenwald, why they felt compelled to create these schools and the impacts these schools had.



Students will examine information about the Rosenwald Schools, including interviews with Rosenwald family members, photos of the schools and a study of life in the southern US in the early 20th century. Teachers will draw from a general lesson plan and specific learning objectives to guide students through critical reflection questions.



A photographic history of the Rosenwald Schools

Students will design the architecture for a model school and explain how the campus layout fits the needs of students, educators and the larger community. They'll also create their own ideal curriculums and articulate the purpose and value of those materials. Throughout, teachers will provide additional resources about the terrible impacts of segregation, including a study of Jim Crow laws, Brown vs Board of Education, and more.

Learn about the Rosenwald schools

 Explore: Establish Meaning Last Saved: 2 hours ago 

At their peak in the 1930s, there were over 5,000 Rosenwald schools in the American South, providing elementary education for Black students through a collaboration of Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and local communities. That's about as many schools as McDonalds in those same states today. What needs and challenges did these schools meet? How did they come about? What was their legacy?

Use the presentation and other resources to address some of the discussion questions about these schools.

+ Add Mentor Guidance

Booker T. Washington & The Rosenwald Schools
A ray of hope during the Jim Crow in the South
1912 - 1932
Video Design

Rosenwald Schools Presentation
Review the story and legacy of the Rosenwald schools

Photo History: How Booker T Washington and the President of Sears Built 5,000 Schools
Photographs and history of the Rosenwald Schools

The Rosenwald Schools: Work in Progress (4m 49s)
Julius Rosenwald's grandson tells the story of his grandfather's collaboration with Booker T. Washington to build the Rosenwald schools.

Rosenwald Schools: Critical Thinking & Discussion Questions
1776

Critical Thinking Questions
Critical thinking questions to consider after viewing the presentation

First Activity: Learning about the Rosenwald Schools

This project emphasizes analysis, creativity and exploration. Students work individually and in groups while teachers provide mentorship, guidance and integrate learning skills and objectives.

ACCESS THESE AND OTHER RESOURCES

To learn more about the Opportunity Education approach — including this project and others built upon the Woodson Center's existing curriculum — visit our website at www.opportunityeducation.org/resources/.