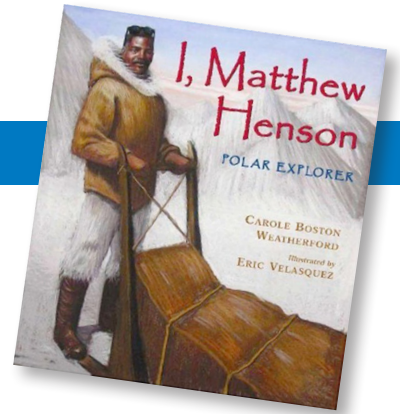


I, Matthew Henson

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES



Themes: Exploration, Determination, Black History

Book Brief: This book tells the story of Matthew Henson, an explorer who, against many odds, was one of the first U.S. Americans to reach the North Pole.

Author:

Carole Boston Weatherford

Illustrator:

Eric Velasquez

TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: What does your child already know about life at the North Pole? Where is the North Pole? What do explorers

do? Can your child name any explorers?

While reading, ask questions: Why did Matthew Henson make friends with the Eskimos? Why was

Matthew not treated fairly in the United States? What were some of the challenges Matthew faced in reaching the North Pole?

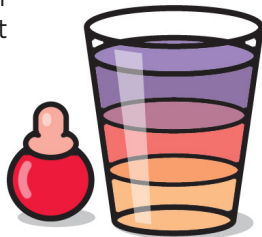
After reading, extend your thinking: What makes the Arctic different than where you live? How did Matthew manage to be Peary's second hand man? Why is this story important to share?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW ICE

Materials: clear plastic cup, food coloring, water

Most of Greenland is covered by ice sheets made of layers of snow and ice built up over millions of years. Scientists study the gases, dust, and molecules trapped in the ice sheets to learn about changes in the earth's climate. Add 1/4 cup of water (flavored, if desired) to a clear plastic cup and put it in the freezer. Once the water has frozen, add another 1/4 cup of water with food coloring to represent gases, dust, and other substances to the water. Repeat this step as many times as you want adding a different color each time. Study the colorful frozen layers of ice and eat if desired.



YOU, MATTHEW HENSON!

Materials: paper, pencil

Write a journal entry pretending you are Matthew Henson writing about the moments before and after arriving at the North Pole. What would you see, hear, taste, touch, and do? What supplies do you still have? What do you do after you arrive at the North Pole?

THE PORTRAIT OF A POLAR BEAR

Materials: cotton, glue, paper (tracing paper)

Research polar bears (www.polarbearsinternational.org/about-polar-bears/essentials) and then make an outline of a polar bear from scratch or using tracing paper to trace. Glue on cotton for fur.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane (2008)

Dear Mr. Rosenwald (2006)



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