




I  My  
Future  
HBCU



## Lesson Plan: Exploring "I Love My Future HBCU" for Elementary School Students

**Objective:** Introduce elementary school students to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through the "I Love My Future HBCU" initiative to foster literacy, promote academic curiosity, and inspire a positive attitude toward higher education and career readiness.

### Students Will Be Able To:

- Describe the impact of HBCUs on diverse leaders and society as a whole.
- Discuss how education can shape their future and contribute to their personal growth.
- Reflect on their aspirations, set educational or vocational goals, and express how learning about HBCUs can motivate their success journey.

### Essential Questions:

- What are Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and why are they important?
  - Students will delve into the history and significance of HBCUs, understanding how these institutions have impacted education and supported diverse communities.
- How can learning about HBCUs inspire your future educational or vocational journey?
  - Students will reflect on how learning about HBCUs can inspire them to set educational or vocational goals and recognize the importance of higher education.



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**Grade Level:** Elementary School (Relevant for grades 1-5)

**Duration:** 45 minutes

### Materials:

- Copies of "I Love My Future HBCU: Teaching Children About Historically Black Colleges and Universities" by Nathalie Nelson Parker
  - **Ebook Available for Download:**  
<https://www.nathalienelsonparker.com/i-love-my-future-hbcu>
- Whiteboard and markers
- Projector or screen (optional)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, crayons)
- Handouts with relevant HBCU facts (optional)

### Procedure:

- Introduction (10 minutes):
- Begin by discussing with the students the importance of education and career readiness in the future.
- Introduce the concept of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as special schools with a rich history and unique opportunities.



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### Reading and Discussion (15 minutes):

- Read aloud the book "I Love My Future HBCU" by Nathalie Nelson Parker, discussing new words and concepts as they arise.
- Engage the students with questions such as:
  - What did you learn about HBCUs from the story?
  - Why are HBCUs important?
  - How can going to college help you achieve your dreams?
  - Who are the people in the story, and what important things did you learn from them?

### Interactive Activity (10 minutes):

Engage students in a brainstorming session about their dreams and aspirations.


Have students draw or write about what they want to be when they grow up and how education can help them achieve their goals.

### Connecting to the Initiative (5 minutes):

Explain that Nathalie Nelson Parker has created the "I Love My Future HBCU" initiative to help students learn about HBCUs and the importance of education.

Turn to the directory at the close of the "I Love My Future HBCU" book, and ask students to find the HBCUs closest to their community.



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### Art and Reflection (5 minutes):

Allow students to share their drawings and writings with the class. Discuss how education or vocation can help them reach their dreams.

### Wrap-up (5 minutes):

Recap the lesson's main points: the importance of education, the concept of HBCUs, and the "I Love My Future HBCU" initiative. Invite students to ask any final questions they may have.

### Homework/Extension (optional):

Give students the I Love My Future HBCU handout and coloring sheet containing exciting facts about HBCUs to read at home or discuss with their families.

Please encourage students to share their aspirations and what they've learned with their parents or guardians.

**Assessment:** Assessment can be informal and based on students' engagement during discussions, their participation in the brainstorming activity, and their ability to share what they've learned about HBCUs and the importance of education.

Ask students to write or draw one thing they learned about Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and how it relates to their own future aspirations.