



Jane Manning James

Create a Historical Action Figure

African American Community
Lesson Plan
4th grade

Rebecca Kirkman | Utah Historical Society | March 2024

Jane Manning James

Create a Historical Action Figure

Utah Core Standard:

Standard 4.3.1: Use primary sources to compare the experiences of at least three groups' migration to Utah between 1847–1896.

UT Standard 2.1: Students will explain the causes and lasting effects of the Mormon migration to Utah. (history)

Reading: Informational Text Standard 3

Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Possible Guiding Questions:

Who were some of the first African Americans to settle in Utah?

What was their life like in Utah?

I can Statement:

I can use informational texts to create a historical action figure of Jane Manning James.

Materials Needed:

Chromebook for students to use these websites:

Better Days/Utah Women's History- Jane Manning James:

<https://www.utahwomenshistory.org/bios/jane-manning-james/>

Jane Manning: Stories of Utah Women

<https://archivesnews.utah.gov/2020/02/20/jane-manning-stories-of-utah-women/>

Copies of Biography Organizer

[Copies of Historical Action Figure](#) printable

[Example Action Figure](#)

Teacher Background:

See [Introduction to African American Community](#)

Opening:

Who were some of the first African Americans to Utah?

As students watch the video, ask them to pick two details about Jane Manning James that they could share with a partner.

Show students [the Salt Lake City History Minute- Jane Manning James](#).

Have the students turn to a partner, and share two details that they learned about Jane Manning James from the video.

Procedure:

1. Pass out the Biography organizer to the students.
 - a. Explain the biography organizer and how the students will read informational texts to find information about Jane Manning James
 - i. Scaffold for younger grades-
 1. The class can read the information together and fill out the graphic organizer
 2. The teacher can provide information about Jane Manning James to students
 - b. Pass out copies of the Historical Action Figure
 - i. Explain the first side of the action figure
 1. Title of Action Figure Series- students will make up a series name (Example- Pioneers of Utah or Utah's Historical Women)
 2. Draw a picture of Jane Manning James' action figure in the big box
 3. In the box above accessories- you can put an actual picture and list the attributes.
 4. Draw accessories - using information from the texts, students will draw accessories that would go with Jane Manning James
 - ii. Explain the second side of the action figure
 1. Character biography- students will use information from their research organizer to write a biography
 - a. This can be scaffolded for different grade levels for the length.
 2. The playset- students can make inferences based on the information that they gathered, and design a playset to go along with their Jane Manning James action figure.
 3. Collect them - can be optional based on time. Students would include other people who could be part of the action figure series.

Assessment:

Completed Jane Manning James Historical Action Figure

[Copy of Historical Action Figure](#)

Rubric (see below)

Closing:

Have students share in small groups their action figures.

Display Action Figures on a bulletin board

References:

- Chipman, Grace. n.d. "Jane Manning James - Better Days Curriculum." Utah Women's History. Accessed May 2, 2023.
<https://www.utahwomenshistory.org/bios/jane-manning-james/>.
- Newell, Quincy D. n.d. "Century of Black Mormons · James, Jane Elizabeth Manning · J. Willard Marriott Library Exhibits." J. Willard Marriott Library Digital Exhibits. Accessed May 2, 2023.
<https://exhibits.lib.utah.edu/s/century-of-black-mormons/page/james-jane-elizabeth-manning#?c=8m=8s=8cv=8xywh=-1956%2C-183%2C5972%2C3656>.
- "Salt Lake City History Minute - Jane Manning James." 2021. YouTube.
<https://youtu.be/4TPuLTaqKnI>.
- Steed, Heidi. 2020. "Jane Manning: Stories of Utah Women - Utah State Archives and Records Service." Utah State Archives and Records Service.
<https://archivesnews.utah.gov/2020/02/20/jane-manning-stories-of-utah-women/>.
- "Utah's African American Communities | I Love History." n.d. I Love Utah History. Accessed May 2, 2023. <https://ilovehistory.utah.gov/african-american/>.

Name: _____

Directions: Use the following websites to fill out the biography organizer. You will use the information to create your historical action figure.

Websites:

[Utah Women's History- Jane Manning James](#)

[Utah Division of Archive and Record Service- Jane Manning: Stories of Utah Women](#)

Biography Organizer

Person's Name	
Early Life	Family Life
Three Interesting Facts	Picture
Attributes	Major Accomplishments

Historical Action Figure

Directions: Use this template to create your own historical action figure.

Title of Action Figure Series

Picture of action figure

CHARACTER NAME

COMES WITH THESE ACCESSORIES!

CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY

PLAYSET

COLLECT THEM ALL!

Rubric for Action Figure

4 Above Proficiency	3 Proficient	2 Approaching Proficiency	1 Emerging Proficiency	0 Incomplete/No Evidence
Character biography is 5+ sentences, all information is detailed, accurate, and relevant	Character biography is 5 sentences Information is detailed, accurate, and relevant	Character biography is less than 4 sentences Some information is detailed, accurate, and relevant	Character biography is less than 3 sentences, Little information is detailed, accurate	Character biography is less than 2 sentences Incomplete, lacks detail, is inaccurate, or irrelevant
Explain events and concepts in detail, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text	Explain events and concepts including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text	Some events and concepts are explained including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text	Few events and concepts are explained including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text	Little to no events and concepts are explained including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text
The action figure is complete and includes relevant, detailed and accurate items, neat, and colored	The action figure is complete and includes relevant, and accurate items, neat, and colored	The action figure is mostly complete and includes some relevant items and some color	The action figure has a few items complete and includes a few relevant items and/or color	The action figure is not complete and does not include any relevant and/or accurate items, is messy and/or not colored

Answer Key
Answers May Vary
Biography Organizer

Person's Name:

Jane Manning James

Early Life:

Born in the early 1820s in Wilton, Connecticut

Mom was enslaved by emancipated by the time Jane was born

When her father died she went to work for the Fitch family

Family Life:

Gave birth to 1st son in 1839, father unknown

Married Isaac James while living with Brigham Young in Nauvoo

They had 8 children, 1 stillborn

By 1870, they were divorced

Remarried in 1874 to Frank Perkins, the marriage ended in 1876

Three Interesting Facts:

After being denied passage, she walked hundreds of miles from Buffalo, NY to Nauvoo, IL

Most people called her Aunt Jane

She was known as a very religious person

Died April 16th, 1908 of Bronchitis

Picture



Major Accomplishments:

First free African Americans settlers of Salt Lake Valley

Worked for Joseph Smith and Brigham Young

Active member of the Relief Society


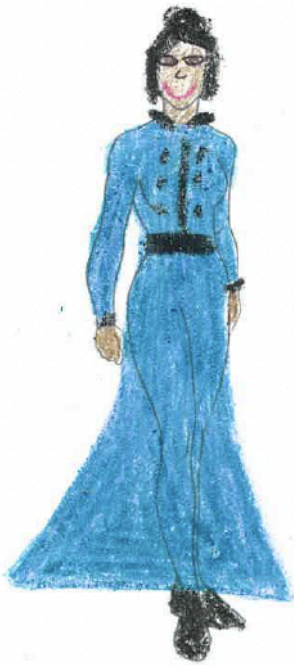
Member of the Ladies Democratic Club

Leader in the African-American community in Utah

Example Action Figure

me Example ...
riod _____


Pioneers of Utah




CHARACTER NAME

Jane Manning James


COMES WITH THESE ACCESSORIES!



Bible



service basket



covered wagon

CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY



Jane Manning James was born in the early 1820s. She joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1842. She worked for Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. She married Isaac James and had eight children. She was one of the first free African Americans in Salt Lake Valley.

PLAYSET

Utah Homestead



COLLECT THEM ALL!



Green Flake Eliza R. Snow Brigham Young