

## Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits

### *K-2nd Grade Lesson - A Picture Says a Thousand Words*

*20 Minutes*

#### **Curriculum Connections**

Directed looking  
Analyzing images/reading photographs  
Compare and contrast

#### **Learning Objectives**

After this lesson, the learner will be able to use visual cues to:

- compare and contrast an historic photograph with a contemporary photograph
- analyze and interpret photographic images
- define the terms (photograph, photo and sitter)

#### **Materials**

Printouts of six photographs

#### **Advance Organizer (5 minutes)**

Pass around copies of the photographs of:

**Sojourner Truth** - abolitionist and women's rights leader

**Frederick Douglass** - abolitionist and writer

**Henry Highland Garnet** - abolitionist

**W.E.B. Du Bois** - scholar and writer

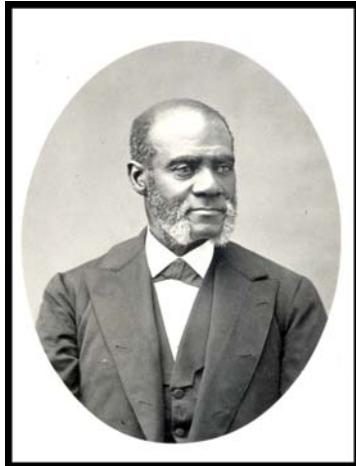
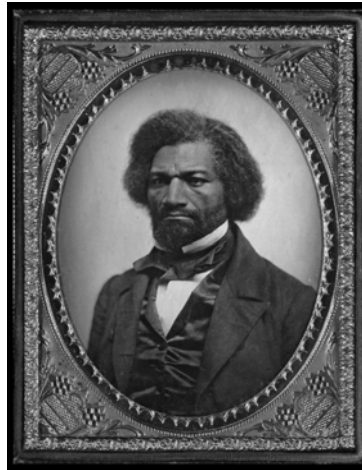
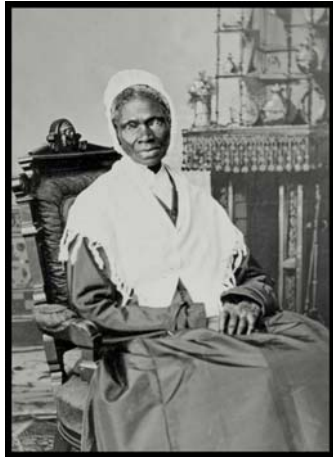
**Lorraine Hansberry** - playwright and civil rights activist

**Muhammad Ali** - Boxing Olympian and Heavyweight Crown winner.

A *photograph* or *photo* is a picture taken with a camera.

These six photos are in the National Museum of African American History and Culture's exhibition called, *Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits*.

Some of these people lived during slavery times. Do you know the names of any of these people?



When someone poses to have their picture taken, they are called a sitter.

### **Class Discussion (5 minutes)**

Let us define the word "sitter."

### **Prompt questions**

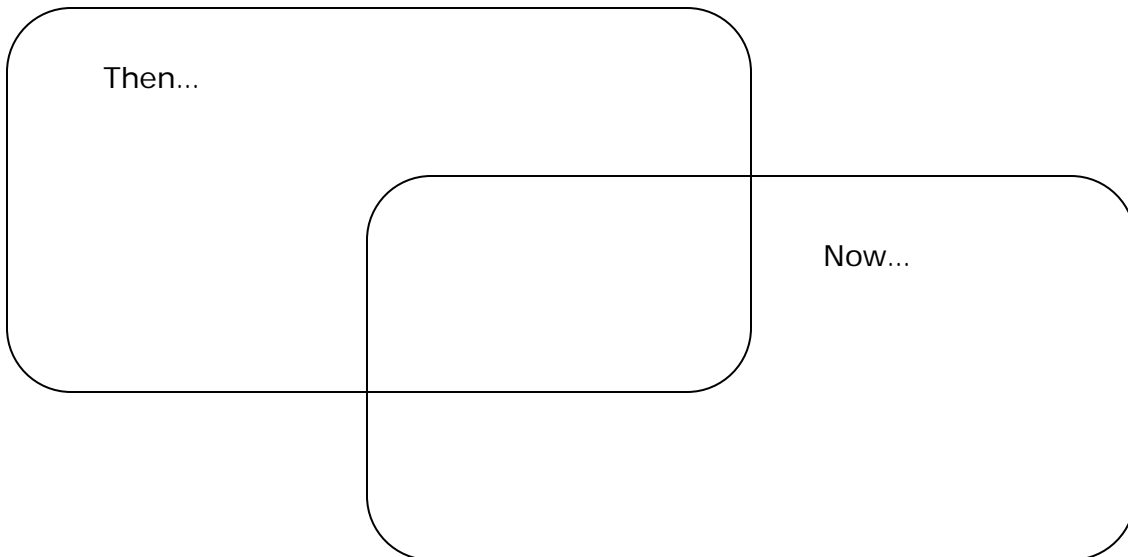
- Have you ever had your picture taken?
- Does your family take pictures on special occasions, like birthday parties?
- When pictures are taken on special occasions are people formal or relaxed?

A long time ago, having your photo taken was very special. People dressed up and posed or sat for their picture in a formal way. Today a photo can be formal or informal.

### **Activity (10 minutes)**

Using the diagram, compare "Then" and "Now". In the overlapping area, write the names of images that are similar in both the photographs from both eras.

On the computer, use the magnifying lens to look at six photographs in the exhibition. Compare them to six photographs from home.



## Prompt Questions

- Is anyone wearing a necktie? Does the tie look like the ties men wear now?
- Is anyone wearing a hat? Does the hat look like hats we wear now?
- Is anyone an athlete? Do his clothes look like what people wear now?
- What else can you see about the people's clothes?
- Look at their faces. Does anyone look sad? Is anyone smiling?
- Look at the way they are sitting. Are they relaxed or are they sitting formally?
- Is there anything else can you see in the photographs that can tell you if it was taken a long, long time ago?