

## GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION: 5-6

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: AFRICAN AMERICAN ON AN INTEGRATED SPORTS TEAM

#### CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES

LESSON TIME:  
1 class period

MATERIALS:  
1. Internet access

TAKE HOME:  
None

#### OBJECTIVE:

This lesson give students the opportunity to identify how we record our history and critique information to determine if it is sufficient to answer historical questions.

#### 5TH GRADE STANDARD:

##### 1. HISTORY

1. Analyse histoical sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of historical context

#### 6TH GRADE STANDARD:

##### 1: History

1. Analyze and interpret historical sources to ask and reserch historical questions.

#### BACKGROUND:

In a brief search internet search for African-American athletes finding the name Marshall Taylor would be a surprise. This is not because he does not deserve to be noted in any list of all-time great athletes. He was the first African-American on an integrated professional sports team, the first to have a commercial sponsorship, the first to establish world records (he held seven at once), he was the second to hold a world championship, and was an American champion. He was a bicycle racer. He was nationally known in his day and the venues where he raced would be filled to capacity. The Major Taylor Association website provides a comprehensive look at his accomplishments. So while Marshall Taylor was certainly an exceptional and notable athlete, he is not very well known.

INTERNET RESOURCES: <http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/people/athletes.jsp>

BleacherReport website, <http://bleacherreport.com/articles/340194-black-history-month-top-10-greatest-black-athletes>

ARNet <http://www.americansc.org.uk/Online/walters.html>

Major Taylor Association, <http://www.majortaylorassociation.org/who.htm>,

David B. Perry, Bike Cult, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995.

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Ask students to name some famous African-American athletes. Ask them to name the sport each played and why the athlete is famous.

2. Ask the students if they have ever heard of Marshall Taylor, or Major Taylor.

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION: 5-6

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: AFRICAN AMERICAN ON AN INTEGRATED SPORTS TEAM

CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES

3. Have students research Marshall Taylor and as a group discuss Marshall Taylor's accomplishments.

4. Discuss why, despite all he accomplished, he is not better known.

5. Ask the students "How do we decide which historic figures are taught in school and which are not?" "Do we believe this applies to other areas of history?"