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## **Black History in the Elementary Classroom**

LaGarrett J. King, Brianne Pitts, and Dawnavyn James, **Guest Editors** 

We—the editors LaGarrett, Brianne, and Dawnavyn—believe that most elementary educators want to be as inclusive as possible in their social studies instruction. A common question asked is "How do I start to teach Black history?" The question is simple yet complex. This special issue offers some answers to that question, providing examples of elementary educators, professors, and students challenging tired narratives of Black history by utilizing elements of LaGarrett J. King's Black Historical Consciousness (BHC) to

Following King's introduction and updated framework the first article, "Family Stories, Counter-Storytelling, and Chronological Overlaying: Exploring Black Historical Consciousness in Elementary Social Studies," by Crystal N. Wise, Brittany L. Jones, Blake A. Thompson, and Anne-Lise Halvorsen, presents three alternatives to the traditional instructional approaches to Black history education at the elementary level. After outlining gaps in the literature and practice, the authors provide examples of how to engage family histories, counter-storytelling, and chronological overlaying in your classroom for our shared liberation.

The article and mid-issue pullout, "Committed to Teaching Black History: Children's Books that Champion Black Historical Consciousness," by coeditors Brianne Pitts and Dawnavyn James, includes an overview of each BHC principle, with books and classroom examples from elementary practice.

In the next article, "Starting with the Man in the Mirror: A Black Male Teacher's Use of African Diaspora Literacy to Reckon with Black Consciousness," Jarvais Jackson shares his journey toward Black historical consciousness through classroom-community discussions and African Diaspora Literacies. Readers can take inspiration, recognize the power of Ubuntu, and see the impact of their personal reflections in both the classroom and curriculum.

In "Reframing Black Resistance to Enslavement through Children's Literature and Primary Sources," Patrick Keegan and Keith Gough explain how teachers can use picture books and primary sources to engage in historical thinking. Educators will gain lesson ideas and teaching resources while seeing how elementary students learn through the humanity, feelings, and examples of Henry "Box" Brown. ◢