

the J.R.  
**Clifford**  
project



# *Grade 12*

# *Civics*

The Writing Team  
Todd Statome – Kanawha County



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*Remembering the Past – To Inspire the Future.*

## **J.R. Clifford Lesson Plan**

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**Creatively analyzing the importance of J.R. Clifford**

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**Grade Level/Subject: 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics**

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**West Virginia Standards and Objectives:  
SS.S 12.1.2, 12.1.4, 12.1.6, 12.1.9, 12.1.10.**

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### **Lesson Plan Procedures:**

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#### **Step one:**

**Essential Question: Post Essential Question on the board.**

**Why is JR Clifford considered a pioneer to the Civil Rights movement?**

#### **Step two:**

**D-A-S-H: Post the Date, Agenda, Solve, and Homework on the board.**

- 1. Date of Assignment**
- 2. What to write down in their agenda for the day.**
- 3. Students will answer the following question: List five civil rights leaders and their successes. Who is J.R. Clifford? Students write down the vocabulary words that will be discussed during this lesson. (Civil Rights, Antebellum, Segregation, Niagara Movement, Desegregation, NAACP, Appeals Court, Trial Court, American Negro Academy)**
- 4. Homework Assignment**

#### **Step three:**

**Discussion of the question on the board: Ask students to respond to the question or statement written on the board. Use the white board write down responses. Have three or four people answer.**

**Step four: PowerPoint Presentation on J.R. Clifford. Have students copy the notes on J.R. Clifford from the PowerPoint Presentation provided.**

**Step five: Students will use the notes provided to create: Historical Head, Hero Poster, and Wanted Poster using the information provided from the lecture and PowerPoint**

**List of Materials Provided / Needed:**

- 1. PowerPoint Presentation: Provided**
  - 2. Background information on J.R. Clifford: Web Pages Provided**
  - 3. Secondary Source Document: Pioneer Press Article Provided**
  - 4. Grading Rubric(s): Provided**
  - 5. Historical Head Template: Provided**
  - 6. Hero Poster Template: Provided**
  - 7. Wanted Poster Template: Provided**
  - 8. Colored Pencils, Markers, Construction Paper, Rulers: Needed**
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**Resources:**

**Web Pages:** [www.jrclifford.org/](http://www.jrclifford.org/)  
**Secondary Source: Pioneer Press Article**  
**PowerPoint Presentation on J.R. Clifford**

**Duration of Lesson:**

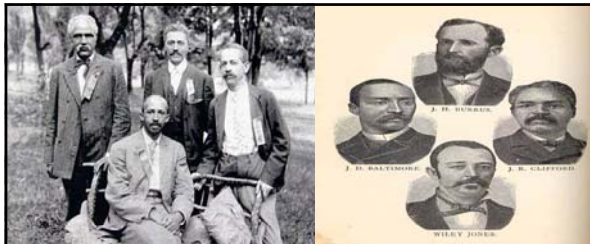
**The Lesson on J.R. Clifford will take approximately one full block (1 Hour 30 minutes) or two full class periods (Regular 45-49 minute class periods).**

**Instructional Strategies:**

- 1. Note taking**
- 2. Analyzing and Synthesizing of information**
- 3. Multiple Intelligence Strategies:**
  - a. Linguistic**
  - b. Spatial**
  - c. Bodily Kinesthetic**
  - d. Interpersonal Intelligences**

**Exit Strategies:**

- 1. Summarize and Evaluate New Information**
- 2. Written Summary Paragraphs**

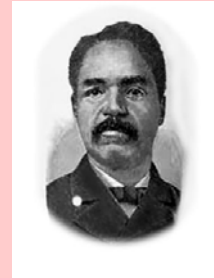


## John Robert "JR" Clifford

The Life of JR Clifford  
 Heroic Journey of a West Virginian

## JR Clifford

- John Robert ("J.R.") Clifford born in 1848 in Williamsport, Virginia, near present-day Moorefield, West Virginia.



## Free Blacks in Virginia



- Clifford's parents and grandparents were "free blacks" in Virginia during the Antebellum South.

## Chicago

- Clifford's parents sent him to Chicago to go to school in the early 1860's.

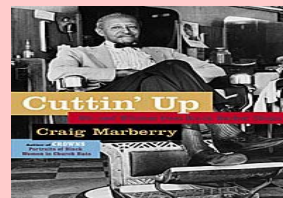


## Civil War



- At 15, Clifford joined the USCT- United States Colored Troops and served in 13<sup>th</sup> US Heavy Artillery during the Civil War until 1865.

## After the War



- Learned the barber trade.
- Operated a writing school in Ohio and West Virginia.
- Entered College at Harpers Ferry's – Storer College and graduated in 1877.

### New Profession

- Clifford became a Teacher and then a Principal of an African American school in Martinsburg, WV.

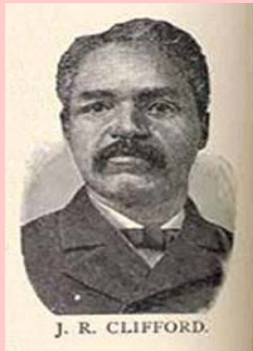


### Publisher



- In 1882 began the Pioneer Press, an African American weekly newspaper.
- The Pioneer Press lasted until 1917.
- It was the longest running African American weekly newspaper during that time period.

### Lawyer



- In 1887 Clifford became the first African American lawyer admitted to the West Virginia State Bar.
- Practiced law in West Virginia for 45 years.

### Civil Rights Activist

- Vice President of the American Negro Academy
- The American Negro Academy established:
  - Negroes against vicious assaults.
  - Publication of scholarly works.
  - Fostering higher education among Negroes.
  - Formulation of intellectual taste
  - The promotion of literature, science, and art.

### Civil Rights



- One of the founders of the Niagara Movement.
  - Opposed Racial Segregation and wanted to promote equal rights.
  - The Niagara Movement led to the founding of the NAACP.

### Blacks on the Jury

- JR Clifford successfully argued to get African Americans placed on juries in West Virginia.
- During his argument, he was attacked and bloodied.
- He later campaigned against his white assailant, using his bloody shirt during his speeches.



### Williams v. Board of Education 1898

- Most Famous Case
- African American School year was shortened by 4 months.
- Carrie Williams, an African American teacher, wanted to be paid for 9 months of teaching her students.
- Clifford sued Tucker County, WV for Mrs. Williams and won the jury trial and the WV Supreme Court Appeals Case.
- It was one of the few minority cases on equal rights that was victorious in the south.

### Williams case 1898 – Brown v. Board of Ed. 1954

- Clifford died in 1933
- 21 years before the Brown Case



The Pioneer Press

“Ballots in time of peace, bullets in time of war”

Vol. 4 Martinsburg, W.Va. October, 1886 No. 10

## Flick vs. Clifford

By J. R. Clifford

That I have been a Republican fanatic in this State for the past 16 years, toiling irksomely to the detriment of time, my pocket-book, my past position and family, and that damns have been my remuneration, are facts that can be proven. That there are genuine Republicans in this State, we have no doubt, and were they at the head of affairs our past fealty to the party would be the same today; but it is not so, and hence our course. . . .

When the post office contest took place here, it was my privilege, as a citizen, to decide and act according to my decision, and in doing which I . . . Mr. Wisner (with whom I was reading law – a privilege Mr. Flick denied me “for want of time” and on the same day and in my presence offered to white student). For doing so, Mr. Wm. H. Riggs called me a “d—n yellow son of a b——” and said, “the idea of a nigger taking a part in a white ight.” Mr. Riggs was then chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee, and upon seeing him I took him to task and the “old soldier” it with an oath. But coming from the source it did, I knew he was lying and published him; daring him several times to meet me at places named and xed, but Captain Riggs would not show up.

I was no delegate either, but I was nominated and elected, but he and his allies defeated. A certain man said loudly: “No d—n nigger will go to Chicago as a delegate from this State, and don’t you forget it,” and we claim by Flick’s action, he carried out the spirit of that low assertion. He told the people at Kearneysville that he opposed me to honor Bossy Lewis, who is dead. It is not so. Bossy Lewis nominated me and begged the convention to send me. . . . As to the many letters endeavoring to load, persuade and scare me off of my course, I have simply to say that none of you know me. That man don’t live who can change me from right to wrong.

The wife, whom I love above all living beings, and who has done more to make me a man of letters than any living being, had cried many a day and night, because I’ve published things in the Pioneer Press, relating to local issues, which I know to be wrong and which have been throttled, and are acknowledged by her and many others as wise. So, you see, is she can’t change, no one else can, unless it be done by force of reason, to which, when right, I always yield. Let us all learn that neutrality in politics, or even opposition to candidates, is no evidence of a man’s dishonesty.

## A Wanted Poster and Hero Poster for JR Clifford

Use the information from the notes about JR Clifford to create a Wanted and Hero Poster. An Example of the information needed is listed at the bottom of the page.

1. You must include: Age of JR Clifford and Occupation. Are there any distinguishing scars? Or something that would help you identify him.
2. Picture is provided.
3. There must be **at least five reasons** he is wanted.  
There must be **at least five reasons** he is a hero.
4. There must be a reward for the Wanted Poster – An Analytical Reward not monetary reward. There must be a Prize for the Hero Poster – An Analytical Prize, not monetary prize.
5. Who is offering the reward?
6. Wanted Poster: A 6 Sentence summary describing why he is wanted. Hero Poster: A 6 sentence summary explaining why he is hero. Use the information given and analyze time and place; who would consider him a villain or a hero.

Example:

Wanted

Nero Age 38  
Emperor of Rome  
His eye color is crazy green, with a hint of insanity.

Nero is wanted for murdering many.  
Persecuting Christians.  
Burning Rome.  
Playing a fiddle while he watched Rome Burn.  
Being evil, insane, and a bad emperor.

Reward: Fire insurance for your house if you turn him in.  
Reward offered by: Roman Life Insurance: Serving your needs for 500 years.

Hero

Nero 36  
Emperor of Rome

Nero is a hero for murdering Christians.  
Keeping the Roman gods happy.  
Seizing and controlling an empire.  
Using insane methods to control Rome.  
Increasing the wealth of the few, while breaking the backs of the poor.

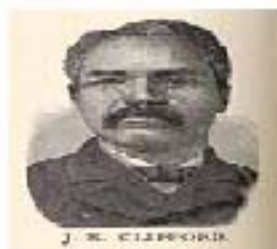
Reward: A golden fiddle to play while you sit in front of a fire.  
Reward offered by: The Polytheistic People of Rome.





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# WANTED



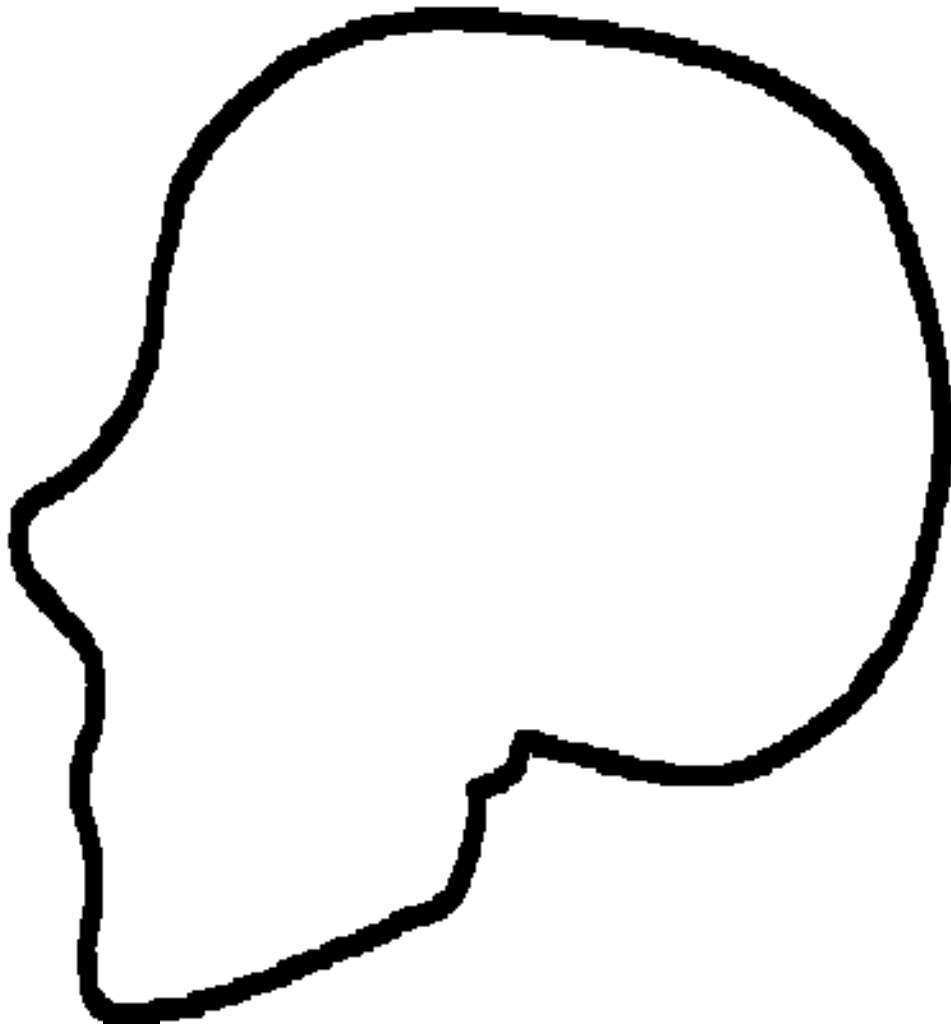
J. W. CLAPP

## Historical Head J. R. Clifford

Students will be given notes on J. R. Clifford. Use the notes on J. R. Clifford to create a Historical head. You will take the Historical Head of J. R. Clifford and place it on a piece of construction paper, provided for you.

Historical Heads must have:

1. **At least five numbered drawings** that represent the Clifford's works, personality, characteristics, or important events.
2. On the back of the construction paper, you write a sentence or two, explaining the drawing.
3. A summary of at six sentences explaining why Clifford was a pioneer for the Civil Rights Movement.
4. The drawings must have color.
5. Creativity counts. Creativity isn't artistic ability, it's how you analyze Clifford's work with your drawings and your summary, and the creativity of your head.



Historical Head of \_\_\_\_\_

**Rubric Template for Historical Head, Wanted and Hero Poster**

Category	1	2	3	4	Totals
Creativity of Information Presented	Information was invalid, false or not listed	Information was mostly true but many mistakes	Information was truthful, valid but was not analytical	Information was truthful, valid and analytical	
Following Directions and staying on task	Student did not follow directions and was not on task. Only had 1-2 drawings	Students continually asked for directions and guidance, did not stay on task. Only had 3 Drawings	Student followed directions, was on task most of the time. Had four drawings.	Student followed directions and stayed on task throughout the class. Had 5 or more drawings.	
Analyzing the information	Student did not analyze the information through the drawings or the explanation	Student analyzed only a small part of the information through the drawings and the explanation	Student analyzed most of the information through drawings and the explanations	Student analyzed all the information, created pictures and the written explanation, went above and beyond	
Summary	Did not write a summary paragraph	Wrote a one-two sentence summary paragraph, with no analyzing	Wrote full summary with some analysis	Wrote a full summary with full analysis that went above and beyond	
Strengths					
Suggestions					
Rated by:	Scale: 13-16=A 10-13=B 8-10=C Below 10=Unsatisfactory			Grand Total:	