

## Bass Reeves: Legendary American Lawman

### Teacher Guide

#### Overview:

This lesson tells the story of Bass Reeves, Black American U.S. Marshal and peace officer who escaped slavery to become one of the most successful lawmen on the American frontier. His knowledge of the peoples and geography of Indian Territory, along with his physical strength, wit, and marksmanship, made him an ideal fit for the task of chasing down outlaws. It is suitable for a lesson in history class.

#### Lesson Prompt:

Can you name any Western books or movies? What kinds of stories do they tell? Do you think the stories were realistic depictions of the time period known as the “Old West” or “Wild West”?

Share the prepared PowerPoint slide deck with the students.

Select activities from the accompanying Activity Pack according to your time allowance and student appropriateness. Included in the Activity Pack are:

*Multiple Choice Questions (grades 2-8)*

*Critical Thinking Exercises (grades K-5 with guidance; K-8 unassisted)*

*Crossword Puzzle (grades K-5)*

*Coloring Page (grades K-3)*

*Primary Source Story (Belle Starr) with Discussion Questions (grades 5-8)*

*Additional Suggested Resources (grades K-8 – varies by resource)*

#### Vocabulary:

boisterous

caliber

embellish

exonerate

jovial

marksmanship

notorious

posse

pungent

refuge

ruse

## Standards and Learning Objectives

### Grades K-2

#### CIVICS

D2.Civ.1.K-2. Describe roles and responsibilities of people in authority.

D2.Civ.2.K-2. Explain how all people, not just official leaders, play important roles in a community.

D2.Civ.3.K-2. Explain the need for and purposes of rules in various settings inside and outside of school.

D2.Civ.6.K-2. Describe how communities work to accomplish common tasks, establish responsibilities, and fulfill roles of authority.

D2.Civ.8.K-2. Describe democratic principles such as equality, fairness, and respect for legitimate authority and rules.

D2.Civ.14.K-2. Describe how people have tried to improve their communities over time.

#### HISTORY

D2.His.2.K-2. Compare life in the past to life today.

D2.His.3.K-2. Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped a significant historical change.

#### ELA

D4.2.K-2. Construct explanations using correct sequence and relevant information.

D4.4.K-2. Ask and answer questions about arguments.

### Grades 3-5

#### CIVICS

D2.Civ.1.3-5. Distinguish the responsibilities and powers of government officials at various levels and branches of government and in different times and places.

D2.Civ.3.3-5. Examine the origins and purposes of rules, laws, and key U.S. constitutional provisions.

D2.Civ.6.3-5. Describe ways in which people benefit from and are challenged by working together, including through government, work- places, voluntary organizations, and families.

D2.Civ.8.3-5. Identify core civic virtues and democratic principles that guide government, society, and communities.

D2.Civ.12.3-5. Explain how rules and laws change society and how people change rules and laws.

D2.Civ.14.3-5. Illustrate historical and contemporary means of changing society.

## **HISTORY**

D2.His.2.3-5. Compare life in specific historical time periods to life today.

D2.His.3.3-5. Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.

## **ELA**

D4.2.3-5. Construct explanations using reasoning, correct sequence, examples, and details with relevant information and data.

D4.4.3-5. Critique arguments.

## **Grades 6-8**

### **CIVICS**

D2.Civ.1.6-8. Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, interest groups, and the media in a variety of governmental and nongovernmental contexts.

D2.Civ.2.6-8. Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters, and office-holders).

D2.Civ.3.6-8. Examine the origins, purposes, and impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements.

D2.Civ.6.6-8. Describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.

D2.Civ.12.6-8. Assess specific rules and laws (both actual and proposed) as means of addressing public problems.

D2.Civ.14.6-8. Compare historical and contemporary means of changing societies, and promoting the common good.

### **HISTORY**

D2.His.3.6-8. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to analyze why they, and the developments they shaped, are seen as historically significant.

### **ELA**

D4.2.6-8. Construct explanations using reasoning, correct sequence, examples, and details with relevant information and data, while acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the explanations.

D4.4.6-8. Critique arguments for credibility.