



**Vital Statistics 6-12**

**Student reFraming Grant Project**

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES.**

NONE

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

THIS PROJECT IS OFFERED IN ASSISTANCE TO A GRANT FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC INTERACTION WITH PUBLIC HISTORICAL RECORDS. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESEARCH PUBLIC ARCHIVES SUCH AS CENSUS RECORDS, IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION REGARDING AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE LANDOWNERS IN THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. **Understand what vital statistic records are and their significance**
2. **Learn how to locate and interpret birth, marriage, death, and other records**
3. **Use online databases and government resources to search for records**
4. **Apply research skills to historical or personal genealogy projects**

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

- Computers/tablet with internet access
- Projector or smartboard for demonstration
- Printed worksheets with example records
- Student notebooks



CLASS	TOPIC	READING / ASSIGNMENT
1	<p>I. <b>Introduction</b></p>       <p>II. <b>Navigating the Census Bureau Website</b></p>	<p>I. <b>Introduction (15 minutes)</b></p> <p><i>Hook:</i> What official documents record major life events?  <i>Why are these records important for individuals and society?</i></p> <p><i>Overview:</i> Birth, marriage, divorce, and death records  How are they used for genealogy, legal purposes, and historical research  Government agencies (local, state, national) that maintain records</p> <p>II. <b>Accessing Vital Statistic Records (20 min)</b></p> <p>Show students how to search for records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (CDC National Center for Health Statistics, state archives)</li> <li>• Genealogy sites (Find a Grave)</li> <li>• Local courthouses and libraries</li> </ul> <p><i>Activity:</i> Work in pairs to explore a website (FamilySearch.org) and find a sample record</p>
2	<p>I. <b>Building a Family or Historical Profile</b></p>       <p>II. <b>Reflection &amp; Discussion</b></p>	<p>I. <b>Applying Census Data (30 min)</b></p> <p><i>Activity 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As family members for basic details (birth/marriage/death years, locations)</li> <li>• They attempt to locate a historical record of an ancestor or famous person</li> <li>• Create a character sketch, poem, song, or report on their findings</li> </ul> <p><i>Activity 2:</i>  Students choose a famous historical figure to research the person's vital records and write a short biography</p> <p>II. <b>Reflection &amp; Discussion (15 min)</b></p> <p>What challenges did you face in finding records?  How do these records help us understand history?  Why do you think some records are private or restricted?</p>