



GARRETT MORGAN

GRADES K-5

Garrett Morgan: The Inventor Who Saves Lives Learning Guide

Educators, Parents or Guardians: You may use the following discussion questions and activities to enhance your students' learning experience before and after viewing Deeper Than Read's *Garrett Morgan: The Inventor Who Saves Lives*.

Video Preview Questions: Asking the following questions will prepare students to be alert for details and view the video more critically.

- In this video, we will be learning about an inventor named Garrett Morgan. How do you think a person becomes an inventor? What types of qualities, skills, and opportunities do you think a person needs to create an invention?

After students answer, tell them to watch for qualities, skills, and opportunities that helped Garrett Morgan to become a successful inventor.

- Think of an accomplishment you have already made – or an accomplishment you would like to make in the near future. This should be something difficult to do – not an easy accomplishment. What kinds of things make this accomplishment difficult? What will you need to do to overcome these challenges and be successful? Note: this could include skills you need to develop, opportunities you need to find or create, people you need to go to for help, etc.

After students answer, tell students to watch for challenges that Garrett Morgan had to overcome to become a successful inventor and how he overcame them.

Video Follow-Up Questions: The following questions help clarify and deepen students' understanding of topics addressed in the video and also allow for personal responses to Garrett Morgan's life.

Vocabulary Follow-Up

- The video states that most early African American inventors never received credit or *compensation*. What does it mean to not receive compensation?
- Although Garrett Morgan was able to *patent* his inventions, other African American inventors were unable to do so. What is a patent and why is it important?
- Garrett Morgan was an *activist* and a *humanitarian*. What does it mean to be an activist? What does it mean to be a humanitarian? What types of actions or behaviors would indicate that a person is an activist or a humanitarian? Identify someone living today who you consider to be activist or a humanitarian and explain why.
- Garrett Morgan gave speeches on *civil rights*. What are civil rights? Based on what you know about Garrett Morgan, what might he have talked about in one of his civil rights speeches.

Garrett Morgan

- What challenges did Garrett Morgan face on his way to becoming a successful inventor? How did he face these challenges?
- If you were Garrett Morgan, which of his challenges would be the most difficult for you to face? Why?
- Even though Garrett Morgan's safety hood was clearly an amazing and very useful invention, he still had to convince customers to buy it. Why did he have to convince them? How did he present the safety hood to others so that they would consider buying it? What do you learn about Garrett Morgan from his actions?
- Which of Garrett Morgan's personal traits or qualities do you admire the most? Why?

Video Follow-Up Activities: Consider selecting one or more of the following activities to extend students' understanding of topics related to Garrett Morgan's life. You may choose to assign an activity to individuals, partners, or a small group.

- **Garrett Morgan** – Select an art medium that you enjoy using and create an art work that reflects Garrett Morgan's life.
- **Inventing** – Inventors need to be curious. They look at things that already exist and find ways to make them better. Or, they consider ideas that already exist and add their own ideas to create something new. Either way, inventors make things that improve our way of life. Either alone or in a group, brainstorm ideas for a new invention. Select one idea and complete the following: 1) create an illustration or model of the invention; 2) identify at least three things you will need to successfully create it (for example, a material you will need to obtain, assistance from an expert, a test you will need to run). Finally, present your invention idea to an audience. Explain how the invention will improve our way of life.
- **Marketing** – Garrett Morgan had to create and carry out a special plan to sell his safety hood to convince customers to buy it. Identify a product or service that you like that you either own or would like to own. Create a poster or brochure to help sell the product or service to customers. Or, create a commercial to sell the product or service. The commercial could be presented to your audience as a live skit or as a recorded video.
- **Civil Rights Leaders** – Research to identify a current civil rights leader. Find out what people group the person is trying to help and what steps they are taking to help them. Present your findings either as a brief oral or written report.

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