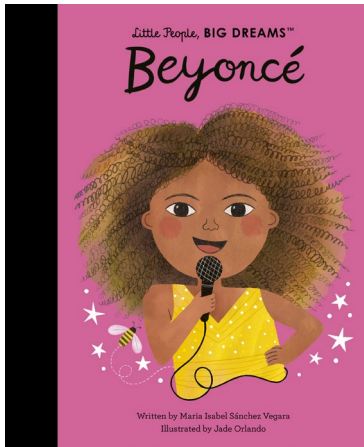


Little People, BIG DREAMS™

EDUCATORS' GUIDE



Beyoncé

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

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SUMMARY:

Beyoncé was born in Houston, Texas, and spent much of her childhood singing and dancing. When she was nine years old, she joined an all-girls music group. That group went through many name and member changes but eventually became Destiny's Child. After worldwide success and acclaim with that group, Beyoncé decided to venture out on her own as a solo artist, and her success in the music industry continued to sky rocket. In addition to being a civil rights activist, Beyoncé became a movie star and fashion designer, as well as a proud wife and mother. Beyoncé has achieved so many of her dreams through hard work and perseverance, and she inspires others to do the same.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. Where did Beyoncé grow up and get her start?
2. What were some of Beyoncé's early experiences in music?
3. In what other ventures besides music has Beyoncé shown her talents?
4. Who are some of the important people in Beyoncé's life?
5. Why is Beyoncé a dreamer who influenced and inspired so many people?



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. On page 2, Beyoncé's voice is described as being as fierce as a lion's roar. Discuss with the students what it means to be fierce and ask them to share a time when they were fierce (brave/courageous) like a lion. If appropriate, explain to the students that this type of comparison is called a simile.
2. Beyoncé struck out on her own from Destiny's Child to make her name as a solo artist. Ask the students how they thought she felt as she made this change. How do they think the other girls in Destiny's Child felt about it?
3. Beyoncé earned the nickname "Queen Bey" and in the illustration on page 16, we see bees. Ask the students to think of an animal that they would want to associate with themselves. It could be

one that fits with a part of their name like Beyoncé, or it could be an animal they admire for a certain reason, or simply just one they like. Ask students to share their animal and why they chose it and follow-up with Student Activity #4 below.

4. On pages 19-20, readers learn that Beyoncé's album *Lemonade* was a tribute to the important women in her life. Ask the students to share who some of the important people in their lives are and why. If they could honor those special people in some way, how would they want to do it?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Class Talent Show: Beyoncé started entering talent shows at a young age (p. 7). Explain that while Beyoncé's talents include singing and dancing, talents can be a wide variety of things. Give students some examples and time to come up with an act and then host a showcase so kids can perform their talent. Students can perform on their own or in groups, and those who don't want to participate can be audience members.

2. Beyoncé sang "Imagine" at her first talent show (p. 7), which is a famous song originally sung by The Beatles. Discuss with the students what it means to imagine. Provide art supplies and blank paper. Play the song and have the students first sit with their eyes closed, just listening to the lyrics and melodies while they imagine. After about a minute, have them open their eyes and draw what they were imagining while the song continues to play.

3. Beyoncé voiced the character of Nala in the updated version of *The Lion King*. Play a clip of the song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" from both that version and the cartoon version. Have students vote on which version they like better and why. If you also have *Little People, BIG DREAMS* Elton John on hand, consider playing his version of the song, too!

4. In Class Discussion Topic #4, students chose an animal to represent themselves like Beyoncé and the bee for "Queen Bey." Using art materials (this project can be done in conjunction with the art teacher so that there is a greater variety of supplies), allow students the freedom to design their animal symbol. Their animal creations can be set up like a museum for everyone to walk by and see once everyone is done.



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