



OUR CHILDREN CAN SOAR

Activities for the Classroom and Home

ART ACTIVITIES

MAKING HISTORY

Each pioneer showcased in *Our Children Can Soar* is shown in the moment when they changed history. Think about your future. What will your page in this look like? Using the last pioneer, add your own contribution to the text.

Barack ran, so (your name) could...



Think about the details of your illustration. Where will your moment take place? What will you look like in the future? Display your illustration next to a one paragraph about your future self.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

The author of this book chose 10 pioneers of African American history. As a class, can you think of ten more? Make your own version of *Our Children Can Soar* with new pioneers. Include a timeline and a short biography of each new pioneer.

THINKING ABOUT ART

This book is made of narrative portraits. Define the word “narrative”. What is a narrative portrait? How is it different from a regular portrait? Can you find other paintings and photographs of each pioneer? How are they the same? How are they different?

LOOKING AT ART

Look at the final illustration in *OCCS*. What is happening? Is this scene realistic or symbolic? What is the artist telling us? How would you illustrate this page?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

IMAGINING THE PAST

As a six year old, Ruby Bridges is the youngest pioneer in *Our Children Can Soar*. She grew up to become a public speaker and a children’s rights activist. From what you have learned about each pioneer in this book, what do you think each person was like as a child? Write a story about the childhood of one of the pioneers featured in the book. *Where did they grow up? What type of things did they like to do?*

WRITING A FRIENDLY LETTER

Write a friendly letter to one pioneer in *Our Children Can Soar*. Let them know where you learned about them and how their life has inspired you. *Is the pioneer you chose still living? If so, why not mail your letter to them?*

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Each pioneer in this book made it possible for other African Americans to excel in the same field. Can you name two people who accomplished similar achievements in each field? *Can you name two more African American agriculturalists, two more singers, two politicians, athletes, etc?*

MAKING A TIMELINE

Develop a timeline of all of the pioneer’s contributions in *Our Children Can Soar*.

INTERVIEW

Choose one of the figures in the book and think of ten questions you would like to know about them. Using research tools (your library, the internet, etc.), try and find the answers to the questions you’ve asked.

LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

There are thirteen different artists and two authors who contributed to this book. Can you find other books in your library by these artists?