



Shirley Chisholm: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>Shirley Chisholm was born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York. She became the first Black woman to serve in Congress in the United States, and the first African-American woman candidate in a U.S. presidential race. Her commitment to political reform served as invaluable representation for women of color in the country.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Social Sciences • Politics 	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/shirley-chisholm-unbought-and-unbossed/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the sociopolitical contributions of Shirley Chisholm. • Identify the role Shirley Chisholm had in Congress, and as a presidential candidate. • Explain the barriers Shirley Chisholm overcame to build her political career. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
U.S. House of Representatives	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access	
Before you watch	
<p>Think-pair-share: Consider the following questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is a political figure or social justice advocate they resonate with or 	



- admire, and why?
2. What does having representation in politics (in terms of their race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, etc) mean to them, and why is it important?

While you watch

Answer questions 1-3 in the Worksheet.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Many people say that Shirley Chisholm's campaign for presidency was "symbolic". What do you think they mean and why?
2. Shirley Chisholm's political stances were considered controversial. Why? Do you think they would be considered controversial today, too?
3. What would be the outcome if Shirley Chisholm ran for president today? Would it be easier for her to run, or equally challenging? Would she be taken more seriously?

Activity Ideas

- Write a reflection essay on the following: did you know about Shirley Chisholm and her contributions before this lesson? If yes, why do you think you knew about her? If not, why do you think you were not exposed to this information? If time permits, get into small groups and share your answers with classmates.
- Research about the other democratic candidates in the 1972 U.S. presidential election. Taking on the perspective of an American during the presidential run, write an op-ed including information about Shirley and the other candidates. Who was the better-suited candidate? Why? Who do you think would appeal more to society back then? Why?
- Finish the Worksheet and discuss the answers as a class.

Sources/places to learn more

1. 2019 Belongs to Shirley Chisholm. (2019, July 12). Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/06/sunday-review/shirley-chisholm-moment-film.html>.
2. First but not the Last: Women Who Ran for President - National Women's History Museum. (2019). Retrieved June 4, 2020, from <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/zAjim2pJexmPJw>.



3. Michals, Debra. "Shirley Chisholm." National Women's History Museum. National Women's History Museum, 2015.
4. Barnwell, Cherron Annette. "The Dialogics of Self in the Autobiographies of African-American Public Women: Ida B. Wells, Shirley Chisholm, Angela Davis and Anita Hill." Ph.D. diss., Howard University, 2002.
5. Scheader, Catherine. Shirley Chisholm: Teacher and Congresswoman. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1990.