

Session 2 – “Arthur Ashe”

Activity 1 – “Introducing Arthur Ashe”

Break the class into 4 groups. Each group should choose a recorder, spokesperson, timekeeper and leader. Each group will take 10 minutes to research a different aspect of Arthur Ashe’s life. Each group will make a list of those facts. There are four aspects we are going to look at in particular. Those four aspects are: sports accomplishments, political and social activism, philanthropist activities and Arthur Ashe’s list of firsts. Then each group will introduce Arthur Ashe based on their facts to the rest of the class.

The groups are encouraged to be creative. Each group should convey the information to the rest of the class in a memorable way. (For example, groups can pretend to be news announcers for CNN, ESPN, or CBS. Or groups can put together a skit about Arthur Ashe’s life.)

Sports Accomplishments

Political/Social Activism

Philanthropist Activities

Arthur Ashe’s List of Firsts

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Activity 2 – “How Well Do You Know Arthur Ashe?”

Test your knowledge of Arthur Ashe. Complete this form by writing True or False beside each statement.

- _____ 1. Arthur Ashe was born in Norfolk, Virginia in on July 10, 1943.
- _____ 2. Arthur Ashe first appeared in Sports Illustrated in the 1963 issue.
- _____ 3. Arthur Ashe was the first African-American named to the U.S. Davis Cup team.
- _____ 4. Arthur Ashe graduated from UCLA with a degree in business administration in 1966.
- _____ 5. Arthur Ashe suffered a heart attack while taking part in a tennis clinic in New York.
- _____ 6. Arthur Ashe was arrested outside the South African embassy in Washington during an anti-apartheid protest.
- _____ 7. In March 1985, Arthur Ashe was voted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I.
- _____ 8. Arthur Ashe’s daughter, Camera, was born to Jeanne and Arthur in Philadelphia in 1986.
- _____ 9. In 1992, Arthur Ashe made the announcement that he had AIDS. It is believed that Mr. Ashe contracted the disease during a blood transfusion in 1983.
- _____ 10. Arthur Ashe died in 1993 and was laid to rest in Richmond. Nearly 6,000 people attended the funeral.
- _____ 11. On what would have been Arthur Ashe’s 53rd birthday, a statue of Ashe was dedicated on Richmond’s Monument Avenue.

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Activity 3: “Philanthropist Project”

Arthur Ashe is the founder of the mentorship program Virginia Heroes. Imagine that you had the opportunity to be the founder of your own program for teenagers. What kind of program would it be? Consider the needs of your community. What are some programs you wish were in place for you?

What is the name of your program?

Write about the services your program would provide.

When and where would your program meet?

Do you feel that it is the responsibility of those who have achieved success to help those from underprivileged communities? Why?