

West Virginia Colored Children's Home Lesson Plans



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Suggested Activities

- **Create and illustrate a big book on the known history of the West Virginia Colored Children's Home using photographs and documents.**
- **Write a story about the daily life of an orphan based on the document, photographs, and interview.**
- **Write and publish a class collaboration that shares the history of the West Virginia Colored Children's home using online book publishing sites.**
- **Create a documentary using technology such as iMovie or PowerPoint using the photographs, documents and interview. Write a voice over script and record to create a multimedia product to be uploaded to YouTube.**
- **Write and produce a two act historical play based on the West Virginia Children's Home.**
- **Design a timeline display for Huntington East Middle School representing different decades throughout the history of the Home.**
- **Using the blue print drawings, create a three dimensional model of the original building on the grounds.**
- **Using a GPS device create a geocache on the property with items representing the Children's Home and put a pin on GoogleEarth.**

- **Research the life of children in orphanages, asylums, and children's homes during the late 19th-20th century.**
- **Compare and contrast a white and "colored" orphanage during the beginning of the 20th century in an informational essay.**



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Quick Description: West Virginia Colored Children's Home - Huntington, WV

What are the facts regarding the WV Colored Children's Home represented on this waypoint sign?

WEST VIRGINIA COLORED ORPHANS' HOME.

Huntington, W. Va.

Article by JAMES L. HILL, Superintendent.

Originally incorporated as a private institution, this Home was purchased by the state board of control in 1911, in accordance with an act passed at the legislative session of that year.

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The building is situated on a bluff overlooking the Guyandotte river. Having been erected largely by inmate labor it was in a very rough and unfinished condition when taken over by the State. Since then very extensive repairs have been made on it.

The farm on which the institution is located is some distance outside the city limits of Huntington, and contains one hundred and ninety acres, only a comparatively small part of which can be used for gardening.

Colored orphan and destitute children under sixteen years of age are received in this home, where they are maintained and educated until they can be placed in suitable private homes.

During the biennial period closing June 30, 1918, one hundred and twenty-one orphan and neglected children were admitted into the Home. They came from twenty-two counties, the southern end of the State sending the largest number, and Ohio, Wood, Marion and Harrison sending the next largest group. Eighty of these children were placed in private homes in forty-seven towns and cities of this State and three towns and cities in other States. Eighteen were returned to relatives or parents. Four were sent to other institutions and ten were released because of age. On June 30 there remained in the institution thirty-four children. The average population for 1916-17 was forty-one. For 1917-18 it was forty-three. The purpose of this Home is to conserve the lives of the neglected and unfortunate children—the "seed corn of the State and Nation." May I add President Wilson's message for this, the children's year, and say to officials, members of both houses of the Legislature and citizens that this message is our message to you:

Save the Babies

WEST VIRGINIA COLORED ORPHANS' HOME.

Huntington, W. Va.

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Colored orphan and destitute children under sixteen years of age are received in this **home**, where they are maintained and educated until they can be placed in suitable private homes. Forty children were in the **home** September 1, 1917.

WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S HOME

West Virginia Code: Containing All Statutes of General Nature Now in Force 1920

CHAPTER 57B.

COLORED ORPHANS' HOME.

§ 1. Establishment and management.—A state institution to be called the West Virginia colored orphans' home is hereby established and shall be carried on in a building or buildings suitable for the purpose to be provided by the state at the present site of the West Virginia normal industrial school for colored orphans, near Huntington, county of Cabell. This institution shall be under the management, direction, control and government of the state board of control. (Acts 1911, c. 24, § 1.)

§ 2. Purchase of land.—The state board of control shall purchase one hundred and ninety acres, more or less, now used and occupied by the West Virginia normal industrial school for colored orphans together with all the buildings, building material, furniture and live stock, at a price not to exceed ten thousand dollars, but before making said purchase said board of control shall cause the title to said property to be carefully abstracted through the office of the attorney general. The deed to said property shall be taken to the state as grantee and shall be recorded in Cabell county and filed in the office of the secretary of state and shall be recorded in the record book of the board of public works. (Acts 1911, c. 24, § 2.)

§ 3. Rules and regulations; officers and employees.—The said board of control shall make such rules and regulations relative to the management, government, instruction, discipline, employment and disposition of the children in said home, not contrary to law, as said board may deem proper and shall appoint and fix the salaries of such officers, agents and servants as it may deem necessary to transact the business and carry on the operation of said home and prescribe the duties of each person so employed. (Acts 1911, c. 24, § 3.)

§ 4. Admission of inmates.—Said board of control shall admit to the care and custody of said home orphan colored children under sixteen years of age and such other colored children of like age that shall be surrendered by their father and mother in case the latter are invalids, or such children as may be surrendered to said home by authorized agents of the humane society of West Virginia, or the overseer of the poor of any city or town, or county court of any county, within this state, and they shall be kept and maintained and educated therein until said children can be placed in suitable homes elsewhere. (Acts 1911, c. 24, § 4.)

WEST VIRGINIA COLORED ORPHANS' HOME.

Huntington, W. Va.

The main building of the Colored Orphans Home was destroyed by fire on the morning of April 5th, 1920. The children have been placed in private homes by the State Board of Children's Guardians until a new building can be provided.

COLORED ORPHANS' HOME APPROPRIATIONS, 1920-21.

	1920	1921
For current general expenses.....	\$12,500	\$12,500
For repairs and improvements.....	3,500	3,500
For buildings and land.....	2,500	2,500

Educational facilities are provided in each of the State's charitable and correctional institutions for minors. Vocational instruction is given those capable of rehabilitation in the West Virginia Training School (for mentally defective cases) at Spring Run, while the children in the West Virginia Children's Home, Elkins, and the West Virginia Colored Children's Home, Huntington, attend the public schools. Special State training institutions are the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, founded in 1870 in the buildings of the old Romney Academy, and the West Virginia School for the Colored Deaf and Blind at Institute. The department of education furnishes teachers for the correctional schools: the Industrial School for Boys at Pruntytown, the Industrial Home for Girls at Industrial, the Industrial School for Colored Boys at Lakin, and the Industrial Home for Colored Girls at Huntington. A first-class high school is maintained in the home at Industrial, and some high school work is provided in the Pruntytown institution.

West Virginia University was established at Morgantown in 1867 as

