

Lesson 4: Mary Church Terrell and Black Maternal Health

Does hope triumph over despair?

<p>Objective/Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine the health disparities that Terrell faced during her lifetime. ● Compare health issues faced by Black women and babies today to those faced by Terrell. ● Evaluate the ways Terrell responded to Black maternal and infant death. ● Analyze past and current issues that impact health among people of color. 	
<p>Materials Links and or printouts, paper & pencil for students to take notes and or screens--depending on the classroom structure-online, hybrid or in person.</p> <p>Suggested biography https://biography.yourdictionary.com/mary-church-terrell</p>	
<p>Resource Links https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M0frbuenLyusw0H8CsYq4StSp7gyGj8qTkY69Rhrf9w/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>https://www.heart.org/en/news/2019/02/20/why-are-black-women-at-such-high-risk-of-dying-from-pregnancy-complications</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0905-racial-ethnic-disparities-pregnancy-deaths.html</p> <p>http://allencrowne.blogspot.com/2020/07/mary-church-terrell.html Mary Church Terrell and her daughter Phyllis in 1901 by George V. Buck</p> <p>https://explore.berkshireremuseum.org/digital-archive/she-shapes-history/lifting-as-we-climb-the-life-of-mary-church-terrell</p>	
Essential Question:	
<p>Is there a connection between race, medicine and healthcare?</p>	
Teacher/Facilitator	
<p>Introduction: Teacher, please read and distribute the bio on Mary Church Terrell (use active reading strategies in accordance with your students levels and needs).</p>	

Discuss that as a Black mother in the nineteenth century Terrell was very concerned about the health challenges which Black women and babies faced. Terrell suffered great illness shortly after her marriage to Robert Terrell. Within five years of her marriage she had lost three babies shortly after their birth. Her fourth child, a girl named Phyllis, was born healthy in 1898. Terrell and her husband also adopted her ten-year-old niece, also named Mary, in 1905. Even though she was wealthy and could afford medical care and good housing and other comforts, she still lost her babies. Terrell's challenges with childbirth underscore the issues which Black women face today. Black mothers and their babies die at greater rates than white mothers and babies in America. Research has shown that one of the greatest contributors to infant and child death is racism in the delivery and receipt of healthcare. Terrell's decision to adopt her niece and raise her as her daughter highlights the fact that non-traditional families are important, common and valued. As we work to reduce Black mother and infant mortality today, it is important to recognize the experiences and activist legacies of Mary Church Terrell who fought the same fight more than a hundred years ago.

Suggested Activities:

Note: This is a suggested list of activities which students can complete to explore this issue.

1. **Interactive vocabulary** -To create shared language and basic understanding, students should work with the list of terms--read the definitions, use them in complete sentences, look up the definitions on their phones, learn them for spelling etc. the day before or right before the class starts.
2. **Watch/log** into the site---to learn the difference between a primary and secondary source.

(Primary Source Link Below)

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/getting-started-with-primary-sources/?&locl=reclnk>

3. **Transcribe:** Students will transcribe primary documents from Terrell's archives at the Library of Congress. Please walk students through the process of logging on to *We the People* and follow the directions to begin transcribing. (Link Below)

After transcribing, discuss the experience. What did you learn about segregation in education? What do you believe and why? Explain.

INSTRUCTIONS: How to transcribe

<https://crowd.loc.gov/help-center/how-to-transcribe/>

Summative exercise/homework

Create a Bubble map detailing what contributes to your wellness and physical health. Remember to draw or put a picture of you in the middle of the bubble map to help you generate ideas on what keeps you healthy.

Bubble Map Template

<https://gitmind.com/thinking-maps.html>

Link to Post-Lesson Feedback Form

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PBkoZrVOBAi2uSX7WjINo7RxiOdZ8skhuNwJtLj0Gz8/edit>

Vocabulary/Terms

1. **Maternal mortality**--Is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of the end of her pregnancy.
2. **Health disparities**--A health disparity refers to a higher burden of illness, injury, disability, or mortality experienced by one group relative to another.
3. **Infant mortality**--Infant mortality is the death of an infant before his or her first birthday.
4. **Preterm labor**--A typical pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks. Preterm labor is labor that starts before 37 weeks of pregnancy. Preterm labor needs medical attention.
5. **Health Care System**--A health care system, is the organization of people, institutions, and resources that deliver health care services to meet the health needs of a community.
6. **Health Care Worker**--Health care workers are people whose job it is to protect and improve the health of their communities.
7. **Health Insurance**--Health Insurance is a means of protection from financial loss. Health insurance typically pays for medical, surgical, prescription drug and sometimes dental expenses.
8. **Preventative Screening**--Preventive screening/care helps detect or prevent diseases and medical problems before they can become major e.g annual check-ups, immunizations, and flu shots.
9. **Midwife**--A midwife is a health professional trained to support and care for women during pregnancy, labour and birth.