

PRINCE AMONG SLAVES

THE AMAZING TRUE STORY OF AN AFRICAN PRINCE ENSLAVED IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH



TEACHERS TOOL: A LESSON PLAN FOR PRINCE AMONG SLAVES

Film Summary: Some biographies help us understand the broad historical themes and issues. Others appeal to the universal emotions of the human experience. And some simply entertain us with vivid characters and nearly novelistic events. *Prince Among Slaves* does all three.

Prince Among Slaves tells the true story of a little known African American hero, an African prince who was sold into slavery in the American south in 1788. His name was Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Sori, and he remained enslaved for forty years, before ultimately regaining his freedom and returning to Africa.

Subject: Understanding the story of the Prince Among Slaves is to understand a period of American history that many Americans are unaware of and one that remains important today. This documentary will challenge people's understanding of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, early West African societies and Islam's roots in America's history.

Objectives

Students will:

- Utilize a documentary film as an educational resource.
- Reflect on their own understanding of America's history and the African American community's contributions to society.
- Increase their awareness of America's early history and other cultures.

Materials

- *Prince Among Slaves* to air on PBS, Monday, February 4, (check local listing)
- Educational resources (background and fact sheets) available at www.princeamongslaves.tv
- Discussion questions suggested below.

Procedure

- 1. Before Viewing:** Prepare students by give students an overview of the film and ask them to brainstorm what they know about the film topic. Ask them to write briefly what they expect to see and hear as they view the film.
- 2. During Viewing:** Prompt students to write down the basic film information (title, etc.) and to take notes as they watch the film. Ask them to specify facts that they were surprised to learn.
- 3. After Viewing:** Open discussion by asking students to share their notes. How did the film differ from what they expected? What surprised them? What values were expressed? What was it about Abdul Rahman's faith and character that sustained him? What is the main message? What is one lesson you can take from Abdul Rahman's story? Ask students to share a scenario where one's faith tradition and/or culture can help to guide one in overcoming adversity. This can be a story from their own lives or from the life of someone they know or have read about.