



Brooklyn *in the* Civil War



Unit: Slavery

Lesson 2.4: History Repeats Itself

Aim: To read a historical article for information and comparison with an event that happened 100 years later.

Objective: Students read about an event that occurred 140 years ago to ascertain information (who? what? when? where? why?) and to compare this event to Rosa Parks's arrest almost 50 years ago.

Materials:

1. Copies of *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article, "Colored People in Railroad Cars," June 30, 1864, p. 2 <http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc073.html>
2. Venn diagram

Procedure:

1. Class brainstorms information about Rosa Parks on blackboard (if necessary, teacher can read a picture book biography about Parks or fill in the facts).
2. Explain that you are about to distribute an article from 140 years ago about a similar case to Parks's. Students read the article in small groups. Their task is to "investigate the case." State the facts by documenting "who, what, when, where, and why."
3. Reconvene as a class. Each group can provide the answer to one of the questions above.
4. Discuss the opinion of the writer. Find the section of the article that expresses this opinion. Why is it surprising? How does the writer compare Brooklyn attitudes on this matter to those of New York City?
5. Students fill in a Venn diagram (see below) comparing Anderson's case to Parks's.
6. Why do students think that Parks became famous, while Anderson was forgotten? How did attitudes towards civil rights change from 1864 to 1955? Explain.
7. Writing assignment: In the voice of either Mrs. Anderson or the railroad conductor, retell the story from your point of view.

