



Kamala Harris

Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Know that Kamala Harris had a successful career as a Deputy District Attorney and as a District Attorney.
2. Understand that Kamala Harris became the first Indian American in the Senate as well as the second African American woman in the Senate.
3. Recognize Kamala Harris is the first woman and the first African American to be Vice President of the United States.

Materials Needed:

1. Video: [Pocahontas- Savages part two and Pocahontas' Sacrifice - YouTube](#)
2. Video: [Just Mercy | "Equal Justice" Clip | Warner Bros. Entertainment - YouTube](#)
3. Video: [Top 10 Interesting Facts about Kamala Harris | Bio, Family, & more | Black History for Students - YouTube](#)

Vocabulary:

- Law
- Attorney

Subject Area: Black History, Social Studies, Women's History, Government

Bloom Taxonomy	Affective Domain	Gardner's Multiple Intelligences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge • Understanding • Application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving • Responding • Valuing • Organizing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio • Linguistic • Interpersonal

Background on Kamala Harris

- Kamala Harris was born on October 20, 1994 in Oakland California.
- **Kamala is the 49th Vice President of the United States of the Democratic administration of President Joe Biden.**
- **She is the first woman and the first African American to be Vice President of the United States.**
- Her father, a Jamaican, taught at Stanford University. Her mother, a daughter of an Indian diplomat, was a cancer researcher.
- Kamala studied political science and economics at Howard University and earned a law degree at from Hastings College.
- From 1980 to 1989, Kamala worked as a deputy district attorney in Oakland. In that position, she was known for prosecuting tough cases such as gang violence, sexual abuse, and drug trafficking. By 2004, she became the district attorney.
- In 2010, Kamala was elected attorney general of California and became the first female and the first African American to be in that position.
- In 2014, she married Douglas Emhoff.
- Kamala ran for the U.S. Senate seat and won the election in 2017 becoming the **first Indian American in the Senate and the second African American woman.**
- In 2019, she ran during the 2020 Presidential election. Even though Kamala was viewed as a front runner, she ended her campaign in December 2019.
- After a racially charged summer, **Joe Biden selected Kamala as the vice president nominee of the democratic party in August 2020 making her the first African American women nominated for a major party ticket.**
- In November 2020, **Kamala was elected Vice President of the United States.**
- Despite allegations of electron fraud, Kamala and Joe Biden were certified winners of the 2020 Presidential Election.

- On January 20, 2021 Kamala was sworn in as 49th Vice President of the United States.

Source: [Kamala Harris | Biography, Policies, Family, & Facts | Britannica](#)

Introduction Motivation:

- Ask students, “What is your favorite game?” Have students share why they selected that game over other games.
- Engage students in a conversation of the **rules** of their favorite game. Also, ask them, “What happens when someone doesn’t follow the rules?”
- Tell students, “**Just like the rules of a game, there are laws/rules that we must follow. Who can name some?**”
- Engage students in a discussion about rules at school, in the community and the societal laws.
- Also, discuss consequences for not following a rule and/or breaking the law.
- Show students the movie clip of **Disney’s Pocahontas** risking her life to defend **Captain John Smith**.
- [Pocahontas- Savages part two and Pocahontas' Sacrifice - YouTube](#)
- Afterwards, discuss with students the reasons why Pocahontas risked her life to save **Captain John Smith**.
- Share with students that **John Smith** was being **accused** of killing Kocoum. **Pocahontas** was, “defending” him.
- Ask students what does, “**defend**” or “**defending**” someone mean.
- Share with students the definition of **defend** ([DEFEND | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary](#)):
 - to protect someone or something against attack or criticism
 - to speak in favor of someone or something
- Ask students to share example of **defend/defending something** or someone.
- Afterwards, introduce students to the word “**lawyer**”. Tell students that a “lawyer” ([lawyer | Free On-Line English Dictionary | Thesaurus | Children's, Intermediate Dictionary | Wordsmyth](#)):
 - One whose job is to help people with legal matters and represent them in court, attorney.
 - **Example:** *When my mother was hurt in a car accident, a lawyer helped her to prove that the other driver was at fault.*

- Share with students that today we are going to learn about a lawyer who became the first Indian and Black woman Vice President of the United States. This woman is **Kamala Harris**.

For older students

- Ask students, “Have you ever been accused of doing something you didn’t do?”
- Have students share examples.
- Introduce students to **Walter McMillian**, a black man who spent **nearly six years on Alabama’s death row** after being convicted of a murder he did not commit. **McMillian** is accused of the murder of Ronda Morrison, an 18-year-old white woman who was shot in broad daylight at the Monroeville, Alabama dry-cleaning shop where she worked. **Bryan Stevenson**, a Harvard Law School graduate, defends **McMillian** and wins the case.
- [Just Mercy | "Equal Justice" Clip | Warner Bros. Entertainment - YouTube](#)
- Introduce the word, “**lawyer**” making references to the movie clip.
- Share the definition of a **lawyer** with students, “(also called **attorney**, counsel, or counselor) is a licensed professional who advises and represents others in legal matters.
- Today’s **lawyer** can be young or old, male, or female. Nearly one-third of all lawyers are under thirty-five years old. Almost half of the law students today are women, and women may ultimately be as numerous in the profession as men” ([What is a Lawyer? \(americanbar.org\)](#)).
- Tell students that today we are going to learn about a about a **lawyer** who became the first Indian and Black woman Vice President of the United States. This woman is Kamala Harris.

Activity 1#

- Introduce students to Kamala Harris by showing the video: [Top 10 Interesting Facts about Kamala Harris | Bio, Family, & more | Black History for Students - YouTube](#)
- Review the interesting facts about Kamala Harris, making a list or share the list attached.

Option 1#

- Divide students into small groups of no more than 3-4 students.
- Assign or have each group of students select 1 Interesting Fact about Kamala Harris.
- Once each group has 1 Interesting fact, students will create a way to present it.
- BORN: See California pictures attached. Students can color and answer questions.
- PARENTS: See pictures of University of California Berkeley.

Option 2#

- Using the image of Kamala Harris, [Here's A Free Coloring Book To Help Kids Celebrate Inauguration Day! - Coloring Home](#), students color and write out the facts that they think are most interesting.

For Older Students:

What's Your Reaction Activity?

- Introduce students to Kamala Harris using the Background information on page 2 and 3.
- Show students the video showing how young women are responding to Kamala Harris:

Option 1:

- [Black & South Asian Girls React To Kamala Harris - YouTube](#)

Option 2:

- [Women Of Color React To Kamala Harris' VP Election - YouTube](#)
- Review the article “According to kids, Kamala Harris inspires them to “want to be like her” to review how young people’s reaction to Kamala Harris as the first female to become Vice President.
- Have students write their own reaction to Kamala Harris becoming the first female President.
- Have students present their reaction in a creative way.
 - Create a poster.
 - Make a PowerPoint presentation.
 - Use a 3-panel display board.
 - Make a timeline.
 - Write a poem.
 - Write a perform a skit with classmates.
 - Make a TV or radio commercial.
 - Make a collage.
 - Write a report.



10 Interesting Facts About Kamala Harris

BORN:

- Kamala Harris was born on October 20, 1994 in Oakland California.

PARENTS:

- Parents met at UC Berkeley pursuing their graduates' degrees with a shared passion for the Civil Rights Movement.

KAMALA'S NAME:

- Kamala's was named after the Hindu goddess that represented prosperity, good luck, and beauty.

GRADE SCHOOL:

- In first grade, Kamala would ride from her predominantly Black school to a prosperous white school district.

COLLEGE

- Kamala attended Howard University the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

JOB:

- In 1990, after passing the bar, Kamala joined the Alameda County Prosecutor's Office in Oakland California as an Asst. District Attorney.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- In 2010, Kamala was elected attorney general of California and became the first female and the first African American to be in that position.

MARRIAGE:

- In 2014, she married Douglas Emhoff.

SENATE:

- Kamala ran for the U.S. Senate seat and won the election in 2017 becoming the first Indian American in the Senate and the second African American woman.

VICE PRESIDENT:

- On January 20, 2021 Kamala was sworn in as 49th Vice President of the United States.

Source: [Top 10 Interesting Facts about Kamala Harris | Bio, Family, & more | Black History for Students - YouTube](#)

Name: _____



CALIFORNIA



Source: [\(170\) Pinterest](#)

www.iameducationalservices.org

Name: _____



1. What is the capital of California?

2. What is the abbreviation?

3. State flower?

4. State bird?

5. Year California became a state?

CALIFORNIA



Name: _____



1. What is the capital of California?

Sacramento

2. What is the abbreviation?

CA

3. State flower?

California Poppy

4. State bird?

California Quail

CALIFORNIA



5. Year California became a state?

September 9, 1850

Name: _____

University of California Berkeley



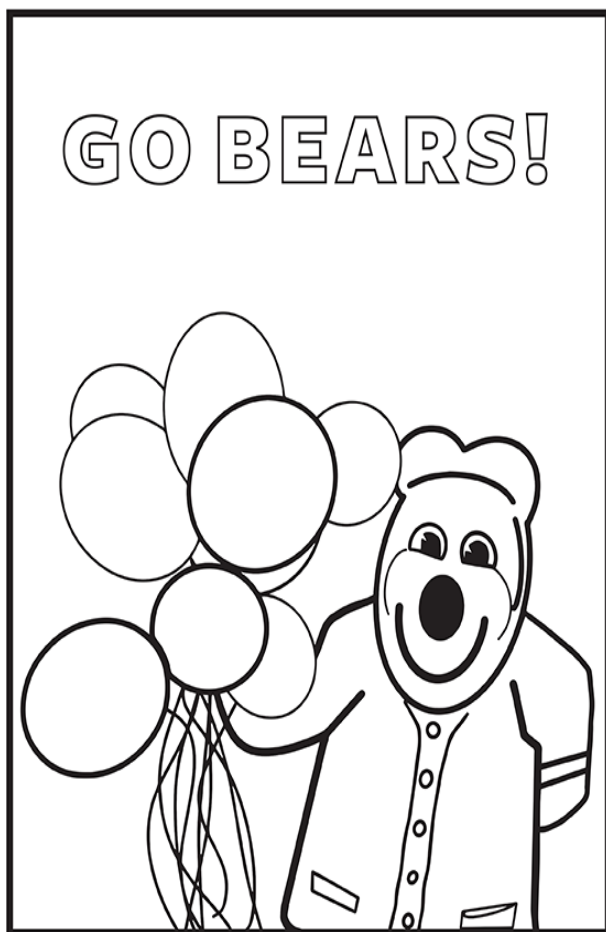
WWW.ULTRACOLORINGPAGES.COM

Source: [University Of California Berkeley Coloring Page - Ultra Coloring Pages](http://www.ultracoloringpages.com)

www.iameducationalservices.org

Name: _____

University of California Berkeley



Cal Alumni Association alumni.berkeley.edu
Image reference: Katherine Floridis | UC Regents

Go Bears!



twistynoodle.com

According to kids, Kamala Harris inspires them to ‘want to be like her.’

We asked children what the new vice president means to them. Here’s what they said.

BYKIM M. WILLIAMSON

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 18, 2021

• ARTICLE **ONLY DISPLAYS** CHILDREN’S COMMENTS TO FIT THE LESSON

Dear Ms. Harris,

I am just like you and your family. My dad is Jamaican, and my mom is Indian. I have a sister too. I can’t believe you are the first Black vice president. I love your speeches. I am glad you and Biden won. Have a wonderful day.

“A woman has never been vice president or president, but it’s a Black woman as vice president so I was just very excited,” beams Kenya Clark, a 13-year-old from New Rochelle, New York, who identifies as mixed-race. “I just think that was monumental.”

“I feel like I stand out more as an African American. So now, having a vice president who’s African American makes me feel proud to be who I am.”

“I think she kind of represents who most Americans are,” says 13-year-old Maya Clark (Kenya’s twin sister), whose dad is white, and mom is African American. “I think people are finding more of a place in America and feel like this is their home, because they have people who are like them—blended families and multiple backgrounds.”

“Wherever I go I’m usually the only mixed person,” she says. “Now I don’t necessarily feel like that, because there’s representation in high power. I feel like I’m not going to be the only person in the room who looks like me.”

“Most of my friends are not people of color,” says 13-year-old Neena Wittemyer of Fort Collins, Colorado, who along with brother Korbin is second-generation South Asian and white. “They were always supportive, but I feel like now, with the vice president in office, it’s a lot easier to talk about topics like race.”

“[Kamala Harris] really makes me feel better, and it makes me respect Black people and women more,” says Joey, who lives in predominately white Harrison, New York. “It’s making me, like, almost want to be like her, to make everybody be equal.”

www.iameducationalservices.org

'I can do something like that, too'

"Now that Kamala Harris is in office," says Chase, the eighth grader from Harrison, New York, "I think we're going to have a lot more opportunities to help [people of] all different cultures and different genders."

"With her being vice president, it will hopefully stop racial injustice, like [what happened to] George Floyd."

Seven-year-old Allison Hernandez, a second-generation Mexican American from Dallas, agrees. "She can help stop discrimination, like Rosa Parks."

"The other day I saw this picture and it was all the vice presidents, and then there was Ms. Kamala Harris," she says. "So, it had all of them as white males and then it was her, and that just really made me happy. I think she's going to help with gender equality in the workplace."

View the entire article here: [According to kids, Kamala Harris inspires them to 'want to be like her.'](https://www.nationalgeographic.com)
([nationalgeographic.com](https://www.nationalgeographic.com))