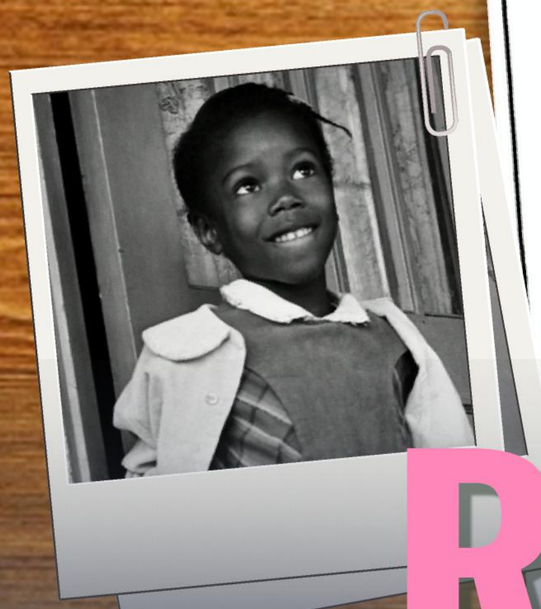
ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

GRADES 2–4



Ruby Bridges

Who was Ruby Bridges?

Ruby Bridges was the first black American student to attend an all-white school in the southern United States. She was only six years old when she became a hero for equal rights.



Ruby was born on September 8, 1954 in Tylerstown, Mississippi. Her bravery helped make it possible for black Americans to have better and equal education.

Ruby's Early Life

Ruby's parents were sharecroppers. Sharecroppers are people who work on farms and get paid with a small amount of the crops. Ruby was the oldest of five children. When she was two years old, her family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. They hoped to find better jobs there.

The year that Ruby was born, the United States Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools. Segregation is the separation of white people and black people. There were many laws that said black people were not as valuable as white people. The laws were changing, but many people still believed in segregation. Many schools in the southern states did not stop separating white children and black children. They were not allowed to go to the same schools.

Ruby Bridges

Many people were unhappy that Ruby was going to the all-white school. Every morning, when Ruby would come to school, they would yell at her. They told her that they would hurt her. Grown-ups would say very mean and scary things to six-year-old Ruby. Ruby never let their words stop her. She and her parents were scared, but Ruby wanted to learn. Ruby found one person who was happy she came to school: her teacher, Barbara Henry. For an entire year, Ruby was Ms. Henry's only student.

Because Ruby went to an all-white school, her father lost his job. Her grandpa and grandma lost their home. Her mother was unable to buy groceries in many stores. White people were angry and continued to try to stop Ruby from going to school. Ruby kept going. She never let anyone scare her away from going to school. A few years later, more black American students came to the school.

The Artist Norman Rockwell made a painting of Ruby. It showed how scary it was for her, but it also showed how brave she was to continue.

Ruby's Adult and Later Life

When Ruby was an adult, she worked as a travel agent and had a family of her own. In the 1990s, she traveled with her former teacher, Barbara Henry, to talk to people about equal rights for everyone. Ruby wrote two books



RUBY BRIDGES

BIOGRAPHY ACTIVITIES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

📖 **2 versions of Ruby Bridges Biography** (illustrated & text-only)

🔑 **Vocabulary Posters** & Cut-and-Paste Sorts

🗂️ **Graphic Organizers**

✍️ **Reading Comprehension Questions**

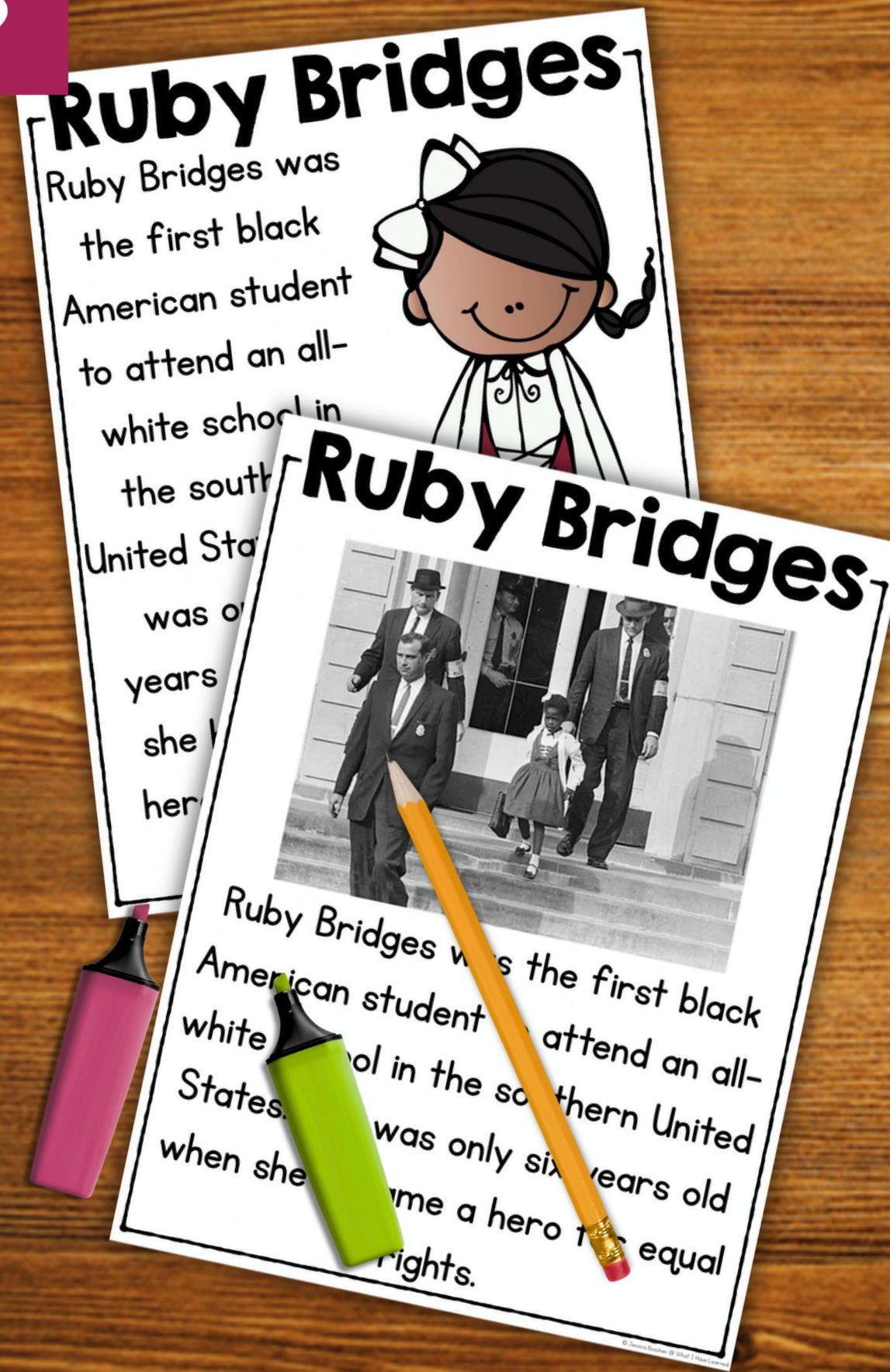
🧩 **Cloze & Sequencing Worksheets**

📝 **Report Writing Pages**

📱 **QR Codes** to kid-friendly videos & websites

🎨 **With & Without** Cute Graphics options

✔️ **Answer Keys** for all activities



courageous behavior or character



bravery



inspire

to fill someone with the desire to feel or do something special and unique

VOCABULARY CARDS

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols

!	when you find something interesting
?	when you are unsure or confused by something
*	when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

yellow	vocabulary words or key words
green	key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

symbol or color	meaning

Ruby Bridges

Who was Ruby Bridges?

Ruby Bridges was the first black American student to attend an all-white school in the southern United States. She was only six years old when she became a hero for equal rights.

Ruby was born on September 8, 1954 in Tylerstown, Mississippi. Her bravery helped make it possible for black Americans to have better and equal education.

Ruby's Early Life

Ruby's parents were sharecroppers. Sharecroppers are people who work on farms and get paid with a small amount of the crops. Ruby was the oldest of five children. When she was two years old, her family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. They hoped to find better jobs there.

The year that Ruby was born, the United States Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools. Segregation is the separation of white people and black people. There were many laws that said black people were not as valuable as white people. The laws were changing, but many people still believed in segregation. Many schools in the southern states did not stop separating white children and black children. They were not allowed to go to the same schools.

Ruby went to a school for black American children when she was in kindergarten. In 1960, Ruby was going to start first grade. The United States Supreme Court had just ordered Louisiana to stop separating children by the color of their skin.

Ruby and five other children were picked to go to all-white schools. Two of the children decided they wanted to stay at their own schools. The other three children went to a different school. Ruby was the only one to go to William Frantz Elementary school. She walked to school with her mother every day. Police officers had to walk with them to keep them safe.

Many people were unhappy that Ruby was going to the all-white school. Every morning, when Ruby would come to school, they would yell at her. They told her that they would hurt her. Grown-ups would say very mean and scary things to six-year-old Ruby. Ruby never let their words stop her. She and her parents were scared, but Ruby wanted to learn. Ruby found one person who was happy she came to school: her teacher, Barbara Henry. For an entire year, Ruby was Ms. Henry's only student.

Because Ruby went to an all-white school, her father lost his job. Her grandpa and grandma lost their home. Her mother was unable to buy groceries in many stores. White people were angry and continued to try to stop Ruby from going to school. Ruby kept going. She never let anyone scare her away from going to school. A few years later, more black American students came to the school.

The Artist Norman Rockwell made a painting of Ruby. It showed how scary it was for her, but it also showed how brave she was to continue.

Ruby's Adult and Later Life

When Ruby was an adult, she worked as a travel agent and had a family of her own. In the 1990s, she traveled with her former teacher, Barbara Henry, to talk to people about equal rights for everyone. Ruby wrote two books about what she experienced when she was six years old. She started the Ruby Bridges Foundation in 1999 to teach people about equal rights and education.



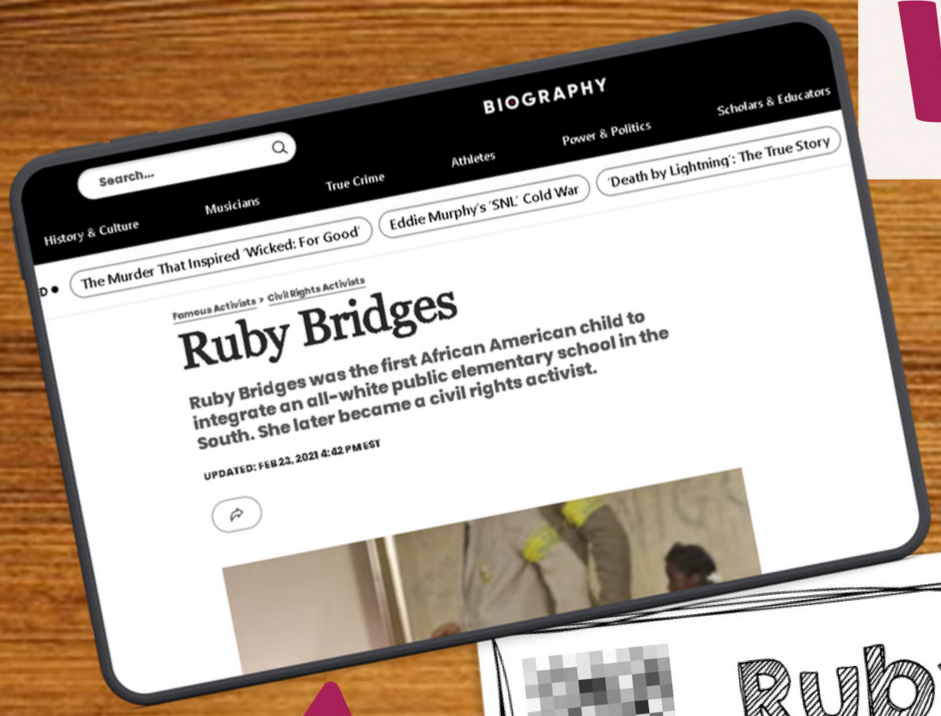
Ruby continues to work for equal rights. She is still a brave woman inspiring people to make the world a better place.

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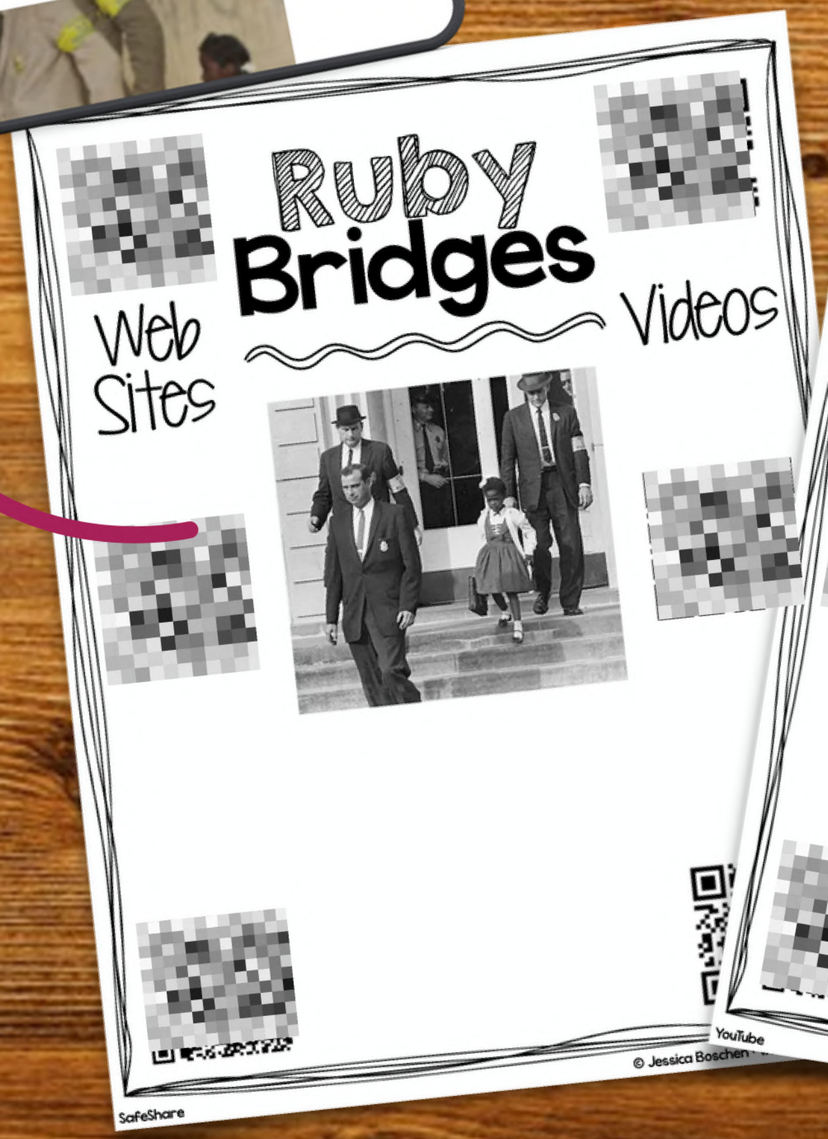
CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

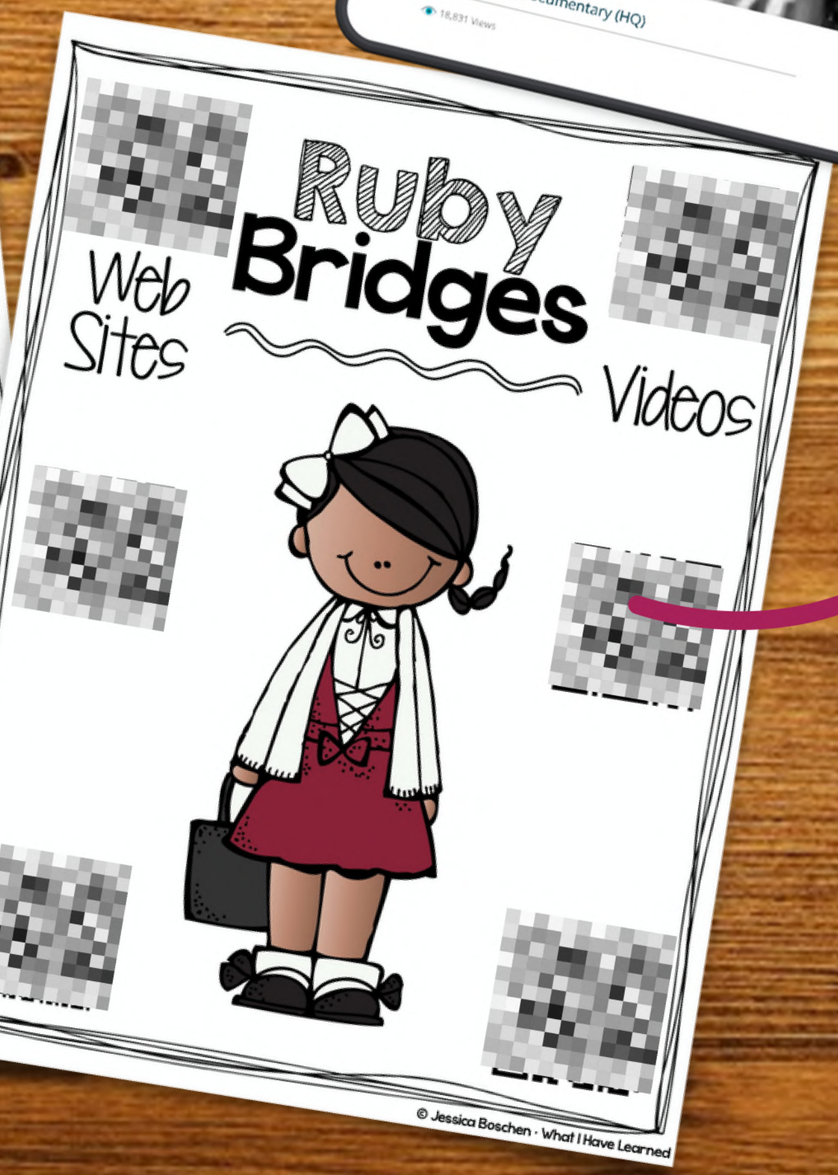
2 VERSION OF READING PASSAGE + BIG POSTERS

WEBSITES


BIOGRAPHY
Search...
History & Culture
Musicians
True Crime
Athletes
Power & Politics
Scholars & Educators
The Murder That Inspired 'Wicked: For Good'
Eddie Murphy's 'SNL' Cold War
'Death by Lightning': The True Story
Famous Activists > Civil Rights Activists
Ruby Bridges
Ruby Bridges was the first African American child to integrate an all-white public elementary school in the South. She later became a civil rights activist.
UPDATED: FEB 23, 2021 4:42 PM EST


SafeShare.tv
Pricing
FAQ
Sign In
Ruby Bridges Documentary (HQ)
18,831 Views
Share


Ruby Bridges
Web Sites
Videos
SafeShare
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Ruby Bridges
Web Sites
Videos
YouTube
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Name:

Ruby Bridges Biography Report

Name:

Summary of Ruby B

Ruby Bridges wanted

but

so she

Then

Name:

My Notes About Ruby Bridges

Born:

Died:

What was her job?

What was her greatest accomplishment? What makes her important?

Write three facts about Ruby Bridges:

Fact

Fact

Fact

Describe three character traits of Ruby Bridges:

Other Information:

Name:

Ruby Bridges Cloze Read

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences about Ruby Bridges.

police officers	inspiring	segregation	all-white
equal rights	valuable	schools	yell

Ruby Bridges was the first black American student to attend an _____ school in the southern United States. She was only six years old when she became a hero for _____.

Ruby was born in 1954. The year she was born _____ in public schools _____ as white _____ not as _____.

The U.S. Supreme Court ordered Louisiana _____. Ruby a _____

Ruby was the only black American child _____ mother every day. _____

Many people were unhappy th_____ would come to school, they would _____

Because Ruby went to an all-_____ home. Her mother was unable _____ let anyone scare her away. _____

Ruby continues to _____ people to make the w_____

Name:

Sequence Events

Cut out the significant events in Ruby Bridges's life and glue them in order.

1 → 2 → 3

4 ← 5

6 → 7 → 8

30, Ruby started st grade at an all-w school. She was th black American to go to an all-white school.	ner lost his job. grandparents lost their home. Her mother was unable to buy groceries at many stores.	In the 1990s, she traveled with her former teacher to talk to people about equal rights for everyone.	That first year, Ruby was her teacher's only student.
In 1999, she started the Ruby Bridges Foundation to teach about equal rights and education.	Ruby was born in 1954 in Mississippi. That same year, the US Supreme Court ended segregation in public schools.	As an adult, Ruby worked at a travel agency and had a family of her own.	Ruby went to a school for black American children when she was in kindergarten.

NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort each fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Early Life

Adulthood

Late Life

For a more advanced sort, consider using the following categories.

Character Traits

Actions / Timeline

Influences

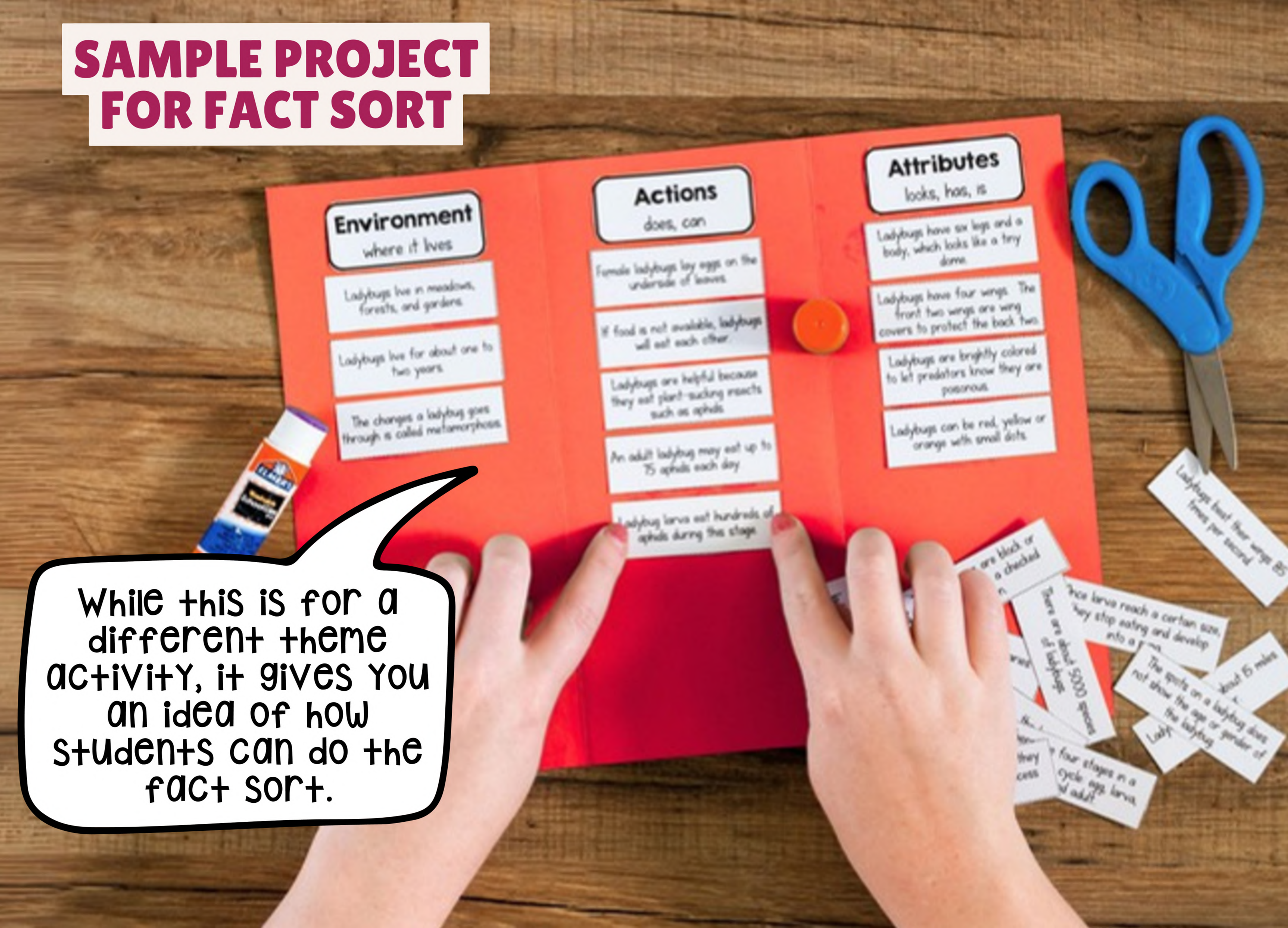
White people were angry and continued to try to stop Ruby from going to school.	Ruby's father lost his job. Her grandparents lost their home. Her mother was unable to buy groceries at many stores.	She was only six years old when she became a hero for equal rights.
In 1960, Ruby started first grade at an all-white [illegible] first black American to go to an all-white school.	[illegible] but Ruby wanted to learn.	Ruby wrote two books about what [illegible]erienced when she was six [illegible]ars old.
The Artist Norman Rock[illegible] painting of Ruby. It showed how scary it was for her, but it also sho[illegible] brave she wa[illegible]	Ruby was born in 1964. [illegible]	[illegible], Ruby worked at a [illegible]ncy and had a family of her own.
Every morning, when R[illegible] come to school, white people yell at h[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]e first black [illegible]ent to attend an all-[illegible] school in the southern United States.
In the 1990s, she trav[illegible] former teacher to tal[illegible] about equal rights for everyone.	[illegible] with her [illegible]way. Police officers walk with them to keep them safe.	That first year, Ruby was her teacher's only student.
In 1999, she started the Ruby Bridges Foundation to teach about equal rights and education.	Ruby went to a school for black American children when she was in kindergarten.	Her bravery helped make it possible for black Americans to have better and equal education.

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FACT SORT

SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT





WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

🌅 **Morning Reading** – Introduce Ruby Bridges with a shared biography read

👩‍🏫 **Whole Group** – Discuss key events, vocabulary, and themes

📑 **Small Groups** – Use organizers and fact sorts for guided practice

📝 **Independent Work** – Complete comprehension and writing pages

💻 **Literacy Centers** – Explore QR code videos and research links

✍️ **Writing Project** – Create a biography report or reflection

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Makes History Meaningful for Young Learners

Students connect emotionally to Ruby Bridges' story while learning important civil rights history in an age-appropriate, accessible way.



Perfect for Black History Month and Beyond

This resource works as a focused February lesson or as part of a broader civil rights or character education unit.



Easy to Prep and Implement

Print-and-go pages, clear structure, and included answer keys make this resource simple to use in any classroom setting.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

"My third graders enjoyed reading about this fabulous girl. We love biographies and incorporated it into Black History Month."

Angela J.

"I used this resource throughout Black History Month to help teach my kids about some of these important historical figures in United States. "

Zamaria W.



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.

teach MATH

teach SCIENCE

teach READING

teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED