

A person wearing a white fencing uniform is holding a black fencing mask. The mask has a silver mesh face guard and a black chin strap. The person's hands are wearing white gloves with black accents. The background is a plain, light color.

BLACK BROTHER,
BLACK BROTHER,
BROTHER,

Nonfiction Resources

Resource Contents

- 7 Informational Texts
 - Variety of Text Features
 - A & B Response Formats
- 1 Pre-Reading Activity
- 3 Extension Activities
- Final Project – Symbolism of the Sword
- Google Slides™ Links for Student Pages
- Answer Keys for Applicable Resources!

Informational Texts

ANCIENT FENCING

Informational Text 1

Name:



The stone carving above is from the Temple of Ramses III in Medinet Habu (c. 1190 BCE). In the middle of the image, two Egyptian fencers engage in competition.

When you were younger, did you ever pretend to swordfight with your friend? Whether using sticks, play swords, or even a pool noodle, these spontaneous, imaginary duels just might be instinct. The impulse may have been passed down for generations. It can be a playful game, but its one rooted in a long, storied history dating to ancient times. The sport of fencing itself also shares these origins. In fact, the fencing history traces its beginning to images in one temple from a famous civilization that flourished¹ thousands of years ago.

From Ancient Egypt...

In a temple in Luxor, sculpted stone walls depict two competitors dueling with swords while wearing protective gear. Behind them spectators watch and cheer on the athletes as they wage their battle. The scene may sound quite familiar, but this fencing match took place in Ancient Egypt over 3,000 years ago. While not much else is known about **Ancient Egyptian fencing**, the stone images do show competitors using swords with covered points, arm guards, masks and other protection. The images depict² fencing, and the stone relief is one of the first fencing matches ever recorded. It shows that the sport of fencing has been part of the fabric of human civilization for millennia.

...To Ancient Greece & Ancient Rome

Records about ancient fencing competitions and duels remain scarce. We do know the activity continued in Ancient Greece though. Fencing teachers, called **hoplomachie**, taught students in Athens in the 5th century, and the sport was even included during the first ancient Olympics. However, the sport looked vastly different than the sport as we know it today. In Ancient Greece, participants learned the art of combat,³ which meant they used shields and other weapons, both of which are not used in fencing today.

➤ 7 Nonfiction Readings

➤ Educational Text Features

➤ Glossary of Key Vocabulary

➤ 2 Pages Per Reading

Informational Texts

In Ancient Rome, the art of combat became part of soldiers' and gladiators' training. Instructors taught sword combat in schools and students would practice with wooden swords. Soldiers used combat techniques⁴ in battle, and gladiators competed against one another in highly public, violent combats in arenas.

Over time, sword training evolved⁵ and took numerous forms as it spread throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. Different instructors taught different techniques and approaches. As a result, **fencing schools** emerged across the continent to provide some consistency.⁶ Participants used skills learned at these schools to fight in duels, survive war, and protect themselves from criminals. Meanwhile, in the schools, swordsmanship, fencing, and the art of combat continued to develop. Later, another invention forced fencers to learn how to handle a sword more skillfully. The introduction of gunpowder and guns caused massive changes to combat. The sword skills learned in response included techniques that more closely resemble⁷ the sport of fencing as we know it today.

Fechtbuch von 1467

(Combat Manual of 1467 by Hans Talhoffer)

Talhoffer was considered an unbeatable swordsman and incredible teacher of the German school of fencing.



Library of Congress, 2021667792 World Digital Library

➤ Format A & B – Text Features, Main Idea, Analysis

➤ Pair with Novel – Cross-Text Connections

➤ Critical Thinking Opportunities

➤ Answer Key & Google Slides™ Links

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

¹ Flourish: grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way

⁵ Evolve: develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complex form

² Depict: show or represent by a drawing, painting, or other art form

⁶ Consistency: a sticking with one way of thinking or acting

³ Art of combat: Any of various arts of self-defense usually practiced as sport

⁷ Resemble: look or seem like

⁴ Technique: skill or ability in a particular field

Extension Activities

PERCEPTION VS. REALITY

Extension Activity 1

Name: _____

For the start of this activity, jot down your thoughts on the sport of fencing. Complete the graphic organizer below.

When I hear about the sport of fencing, thoughts that come to mind are...	When I hear about the sport of fencing, the images that come to mind are...
Discussion: Discuss your perceptions of fencing with your classmates. What do others think about fencing?	Discussion: Discuss your perceptions of fencing with your classmates. What images come to mind when fencing is mentioned?

1. What are some similarities between you and your classmates' perception and ideas about fencing? What are some differences? Explain them below.

2. When images of fencing come to mind, what similarities exist? How are images of fencing different?

- 1 Pre-Reading Activity
- 3 Extensions Activities – Deepen Understanding of Fencing
- Research Activities – Develop Analysis Skills
- Build Foundational Knowledge

Extension Activities



LIFE INFORMATION

Birthdate/Death & Birthplace:

Important Family, Athletes & Friends:

Entry Into Fencing:

INFLUENTIAL EVENTS TIMELINE



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.

2.

3.

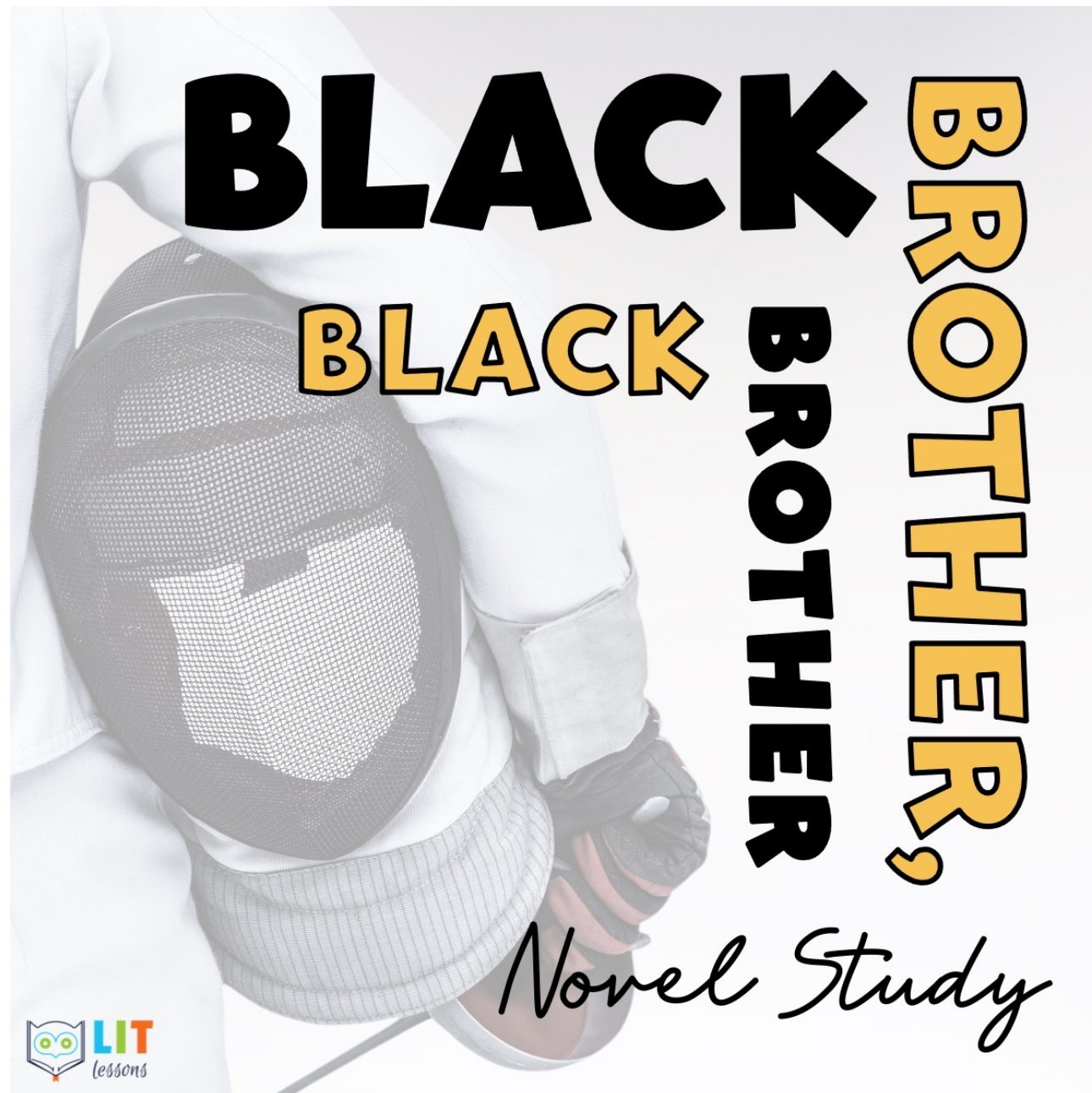
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- Final Project – Symbolism of the Sword
- Pair with Novel & Informational Texts – Cross-Text Connections
- Prompts Require Evidence-based Responses
- Cross-Curricular Learning

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