
BONUS VIDEO: ELIJAH MCCOY

Segment Length: 2:12 minutes

Description:

Elijah McCoy is a good video to spark discussion in a U.S. history or economics class. Who was Elijah McCoy? What did he do? This video takes a look at the importance of perseverance and innovation, by highlighting Elijah McCoy, whose life and accomplishments can be fine examples for all our students. He is, it is said, the Real McCoy.

Pair with:

Elijah McCoy is a good standalone video, but it can be paired with other videos on this DVD, such as, *Permissionless Society*, *Robots and Driverless Cars*, and YouTube, as well as *Economics Made the World Great* and *Hockey Stick of Human Prosperity* (two other Bonus videos).

Preview Activity and Questions:

Use Think, Pair, Share to have students answer the preview questions. After a few minutes, poll the students and ask them to discuss their answers.

Can people overcome obstacles in their lives? Is it worth trying? Why bother?

Discussion and Analysis:

1. Elijah McCoy's parents sent him to Scotland to study mechanical engineering. Were they rich? What did Elijah McCoy's parents do when they were younger?
2. What did Elijah do when he returned to the United States?
3. What is a patent? How many patents did he have before he died?
4. What was significant about Elijah McCoy? What was significant about his achievements?
5. How can we learn from Elijah? Is he a hero, a role model? Explain.

Post-Viewing Activities:

1. Research another obscure historical figure or a modern figure who has had to overcome obstacles in his or her life.
2. Read Lawrence Reed's book *Real Heroes*