

World's Columbian Exposition

This activity accompanies "Columbian Ode," from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5017.

Activity Title: World's Columbian Exposition

Description: The students will work with a partner to research the significance of the World's Columbian Exposition and why Dunbar wrote an ode in honor of it.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts and Social Studies

Skill: Literary Analysis and American History

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the significance of the World's Columbian Exposition and why Dunbar may have written an ode in honor of it.

Materials:

- "Columbian Ode" poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- Internet access and/or history books

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Explain to the students that Dunbar wrote this poem in honor of the World's Columbian Exposition, (also called The Chicago World's Fair) which took place in Chicago in 1893. Next, have the students work with a partner to research the events that took place at the World's Columbian Exposition. Also, have the students give an explanation for why they think Dunbar may have written the poem, using both textual support and information they found through research. If there is time, have the students share their findings and explanation with another group.

