

Mrs. Frohnapfel – Grade 4

Mrs. Frohnapfel's 4th grade class learned about **Elijah McCoy**. We chose to study Mr. McCoy because his life tied into what we were learning about in ELA, Science and Social Studies. We read Historical Fiction books on the Underground Railroad. We learned that Elijah McCoy's parents escaped from slavery using the Underground Railroad. They fled from Kentucky to live in Canada as free African Americans. Mr. McCoy was a well-educated African American. He actually attended school in Scotland. When he was finished with school, he returned to the United States to live in Michigan as a free man. At that time, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves in America. Although he was free, he was not treated equally because of the color of his skin. He could not get a job as an engineer, so he had to settle being a fireman for a train company. In Science, we studied Forces and Motion and learned about friction. Elijah McCoy was an inventor/engineer. He built an oil cup that automatically dripped oil where it was needed on the train so the train did not need to stop every few miles. Finally, we looked at the different Character Traits we were learning about in our Character Connections Project. We found examples of these different character traits throughout Elijah McCoy's life.

