Sylvanus Batis Bracy

An African American Pioneer in Engineering

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Grade 6 Interdisciplinary Research Simulation Task

Essential Question

How do Bracy's education, engineering, and family legacy support his inclusion in the historical narrative? Develop a claim using at least two sources, including Source C or D. Explain what each source establishes and one question that further research could answer.

NJSLS Social Studies

6.3.8.CivicsPI.4 investigates how organizations shape lives. Students examine Howard, military service, and employment opportunity through Bracy's biography.

NJSLS English Language Arts

RI.CR.6.1 supports analysis with textual evidence. RI.MF.6.6 integrates information across formats. W.AW.6.1 develops arguments with relevant evidence.

CCSS and CCLS Literacy Connections

RH.6 8.1 cites historical evidence. RH.6 8.9 compares primary and secondary sources. RST.6 8.7 connects technical text and visuals. WHST.6 8.1 develops arguments.

Interdisciplinary and Amistad Alignment

History and civics examine African American achievement and barriers to opportunity. Geography follows movement among places. Mathematics plots coordinates. Science literacy compares tracking and flight control. Amistad instruction centers Black intellectual agency.

Day 1 A Brooklyn Childhood

Do Now

How can a person's interests help reveal a talent? Give one example.

Source A A Mind for Mathematics

Sylvanus Batis Bracy was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 23, 1921. His parents were William and Harriet King Bracy. In his account of Bracy·s life, Terrence Knox describes a child who excelled in mathematics and showed a strong interest in science. Bracy also loved baseball and watched the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. His story includes both intellectual gifts and the ordinary pleasures that shaped his childhood. [1]

Bracy attended Boys High School in Bedford Stuyvesant. Knox records that he continued to excel and graduated in June 1939. His next destination was Howard University in Washington, DC, where he enrolled that fall to study mechanical and electrical engineering. This move connected his early interests with a demanding educational goal. [1]

A biography follows a life through evidence. Knox writes from a family relationship with Bracy. His account offers details about childhood and ambition that a technical patent would not ordinarily contain. Read each source with attention to what it helps us understand.

Quick Write

How did Bracy's early interests connect to his educational choices? Cite two details from Source A.