



#8845

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## ONE DOCTOR: DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS

Grade Levels: 6-13+  
43 minutes  
HISTORY ON VIDEO 1997

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### DESCRIPTION

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the "father of Black surgery," was the first to perform an operation on a human heart in 1893. He established the nation's first interracial hospital, provided advanced training for Black doctors and nurses, directed and reorganized Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C., and developed many surgical innovations still in use today. His primary goals were to offer training facilities for Black medical students and to improve the quality of patient care, regardless of color.

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### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

#### Subject Area: Self-Regulation

- ◆ Standard: Demonstrates perseverance

#### Subject Area: Civics

- ◆ Standard: Understands issues regarding personal, political, and economic rights

#### Subject Area: Technology

- ◆ Standard: Understands the relationships among science, technology, society, and the individual



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### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To study the life of pioneer African American surgeon, Daniel Hale Williams.
2. To depict that through determination and perseverance, adversity can be overcome.

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### AFTER SHOWING

#### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe the circumstances surrounding Dr. Daniel Hale Williams' successful operation on the human heart and include the year that he performed the surgery.
2. Discuss the obstacles Dr. Williams faced when opening Provident Hospital and how he confronted them.
3. Outline the benefits that Dr. Williams provided the citizens of Chicago when he opened the nation's first interracial hospital to treat black patients.
4. At what point did Dr. Williams decide to specialize in surgery and how effective was surgery in eradicating disease during this period?

5. After being named Surgeon-in-Chief of Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., by President Grover Cleveland, Dr. Williams had to solve different issues to raise the quality standards of the facility. Identify the issues he faced and discuss how he met the challenges.
6. Discuss the impact Dr. Williams had on medicine in the South and nationally.
7. When Daniel Hale Williams trained in Dr. Palmer's office, how were diseases diagnosed by the staff?
8. Who was Dr. Williams' mentor and what role did this person have in his goal to be a physician?
9. Examine how Dr. Williams financed his medical school education and discuss his desire to become a proficient doctor.
10. Discuss the contributions to medicine that Dr. Williams made.

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- Careers for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Scientific Occupations #8890
- In Medical Science #8769



### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE FACES OF SCIENCE: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE SCIENCES**  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~mcbrown/display/faces.html>

Profiled are African American men and women who have contributed to the advancement of the sciences and engineering. The accomplishments of the past and present can serve as pathfinders to present and future professionals in these fields.

- **BLS CAREER INFORMATION**  
[http://stats.bls.gov/k12/html/sci\\_003.htm](http://stats.bls.gov/k12/html/sci_003.htm)

Find out what doctors do, what the job is like, how to prepare for the job, pay scale, and more in this field of medical science.

- **DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS (1856-1931)**  
<http://www.williams.cps.k12.il.us/HTMLpages/dhwilliamsMD.html>

Biography of and commentary about Dr. Williams. Also presents related links.