



Stories From American History

Teacher's Guide

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum Focus: U.S. History

Lesson Duration: 2 class periods

Program Description

Meet several Native American groups and see how they have lived in harmony with the land. Ride with a cowboy as he herds cattle along the trail.

Discussion Questions

Pre-viewing Questions

- What do you know about Native Americans?
- What do you know about their histories or lives?

Post-viewing Questions

- How does geography affect the lives of Native Americans?
 - What do most Native Americans have in common?
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Lesson Plan

Student Objectives

- Understand the relationship between geography and the lives of Native Americans.
- Research a Native American group and learn about its way of life.
- Create a brochure explaining a Native American group's connection to the land.

Materials

- Computer(s) with Internet access
- Paper and pencils

Procedures

1. Begin the lesson by having students watch the segment "Native Americans: Living With the Land" in the program *Stories From American History*.

2. Discuss the value most Native Americans share: a deep connection to the land and a desire to live in harmony with it. Briefly review how the segment illustrates the unique relationship that Native Americans have had with the land.
3. Explain that students will explore this relationship in more detail. Then divide students into groups of four or five. Have each group pick one of the following groups to research in more detail: Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, the Anasazi, or the Sioux. If possible, see that about one-third of the class is working on each group.
4. Students will research how each group reflects its connection to the land. Then students will create a brochure with photographs that illustrates this connection. Students should include the following points in their brochures:
 - food sources (farming, hunting, fishing, or a combination)
 - dwellings
 - clothing
 - art
 - religious beliefs
 - music and dance
5. Students may visit the following Web sites for more ideas:
 - Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/wauhtml/aipnhome.html>
<http://members.aol.com/Donnclass/NWIndianlife.html>
<http://inkido.indiana.edu/w310work/romac/nwindian.htm>
 - Anasazi
<http://www.nativeamericans.com/Anasazi.htm>
http://www.desertusa.com/ind1/du_peo_ana.html
<http://www.swcolo.org/Tourism/archaeology/people.html>
 - Sioux
<http://www.nativeamericans.com/Sioux.htm>
<http://www.crystalinks.com/sioux.html>
<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/northamerica/sioux.html>
6. Give students time in class to work on their brochures. Encourage them to use as many photographs as possible to illustrate how Native Americans make connections to their environments.

7. During the next class period, ask volunteers to share their brochures. Try to have each Native group represented.
8. Conclude the lesson by asking students if their research confirmed the original idea, which was that most Native Americans share a love of the land. If so, discuss the different ways that this connection is evident.

Assessment

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

- 3 points: Students were highly engaged in class and group discussions and produced a clear, complete, and attractive brochure, including all of the requested information.
- 2 points: Students participated in class and group discussions and produced an adequate brochure, including most of the requested information.
- 1 point: Students participated minimally in class and group discussions and created an incomplete brochure with little or none of the requested information.

Vocabulary

Anasazi

Definition: A Native American group that lived about 2,000 years ago in the American Southwest

Context: The Anasazi are often called cliff dwellers because they built homes on cliff ledges in canyon walls.

Native Americans

Definition: The people who lived in North America long before European explorers arrived in the late 1400s.

Context: Native Americans live everywhere in the United States today.

Pacific Northwest tribes

Definition: The Native American groups who live in the Pacific Northwest in the United States

Context: The Pacific Northwest tribes made canoes out of cedar and they fished and hunted elk, bear, and deer.

Sioux

Definition: A Native American group in the Great Plains region of the United States

Context: The Sioux and other Great Plains tribes once hunted buffalo, using its meat for food, its skin for clothing, and its bones for tools.



totem

Definition: Images carved in wood, including birds and animals associated with families or clans

Context: In the Pacific Northwest, Native Americans carve traditional totems into long poles.

Academic Standards

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit <http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>.

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Historical Understanding – Understands and knows how to analyze chronological relationships and patterns
- Language Arts: Viewing – Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media; Writing: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process, Gathers and uses information for research purposes

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

NCSS has developed national guidelines for teaching social studies. To become a member of NCSS, or to view the standards online, go to <http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands/>.

This lesson plan addresses the following thematic standards:

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change

Support Materials

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>

