

The “New” World: What You Should Know Before You Go (A Guide to Native America)

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Intended Grades: 3rd and 4th

Subject Area: Social Studies

Correlation to National or Washington State Standards:

Standard 1.2: Understand events, trends, individuals, and movements shaping United States, world, and Washington State history

Standard 1.3: Examine the influence of culture on United States, world, and Washington State history

Standard 2.1: Compare and contrast ideas in different places, time periods, and cultures, and examine the interrelationships between ideas, change, and conflict.

Objective:

Students will understand that Plimoth Plantation was not the first European colony in America. Students will understand that several countries were competing to colonize and control the New World after Columbus sailed to the West Indies in 1492. Students will be introduced to the school computer lab and retrieve historical information from pre selected web sites, magazines and books.

Approximate Time Required: 3 to 4 hours

Materials:

See below under Resources

Instructions:

Teacher directed:

The lesson will begin with a read aloud of a book about Columbus’ “Discovery of America”. A class discussion will ensue with observations about the way indigenous people are shallowly portrayed in the book. Students will then be asked to work in small groups to compare, contrast and analyze other picture books about Columbus and the way the indigenous people are portrayed as inferior and “uncivilized”

We will listen to the song “1492” by Nancy Schimmel (available from Teaching Tolerance, Montgomery, Ala.)

I will tell the students that there is a need for early explorers and colonists from Spain, France and England to learn more about the indigenous people living on the North American continent before they go there to build a new life. We will discuss the positive effects this might have on the experiences of all cultures involved and ways in which history might have been different had early colonists informed themselves more about the indigenous cultures of the New World.

Student directed:

Students will work in groups of 2 to plan and illustrate a fact sheet (brochure) about an assigned Native American group living on the East coast of North America. As a class, we will discuss and decide what the brochures should include. Students will use pre-selected internet sites and magazines and books to complete their assignment. Eight students will each be assigned to one of three Native American Tribes: The Timucua in Florida, the Waponahki in Quebec and the Powhatan in Virginia.

Students will present their brochures to the class. They will be displayed on a bulletin board, and later bound into a book.

Students will be taught about the history of the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine in 1565, English settlements of Roanoke and Jamestown and the successful French settlement of Quebec City in 1608 after earlier attempts in Florida and Maine.

Evaluation:

The student will be evaluated for:

Oral presentation of brochure in front of classmates.

Accurately written facts, thoughtful pictures and interesting details that teach us about the strengths, personalities, homes, diets, skills and other interesting qualities of the selected indigenous tribes of North America as they lived before European colonization altered their way of life.

Resources:

Jamestown internet site for kids <http://ab.mec.edu/jamestown/powhatan.html>

Timucua internet site for kids <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/websites/links001.htm#tim>

Cobblestone Magazine (November 1994, "Indians of the Northeast Coast").

Various books about the Timucua Tribe of Florida, the Powhatan Tribe of Virginia and the Wapanohki tribe of Maine and Quebec. Three or four children's picture books about Columbus (pre-1995 publishing dates tend to portray examples of stereotyping and racism). Various books, primary document pictures, maps and writings from 16th and early 17th century European exploration and colonization.

The web site: <http://www.tolerance.org/teach>

The lyrics to "1492"

Words & music by Nancy Schimmel

In fourteen hundred and ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
It was a courageous thing to do,
but someone was already here.
(Chorus)

The Inuit and Cherokee,
the Aztec and Menominee,
Onondaga and the Cree.
Columbus sailed across the sea,
but someone was already here.

Columbus knew the world was round
So he looked for the East while westward bound
But he didn't find what he thought he found
For someone was already here.

It isn't like 'twas empty space
The Caribs met him face to face
Could anyone discover the place
When someone was already here?

So tell me who discovered what
Thought he was in a different spot
Columbus was lost, the Caribs were not
They were already here.