

Best Practices of Technology Integration

Title: The Building Blocks of the Nation

Submitted by:

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Subject Area: Social Studies

Intended Grade Levels: 4th - 8th

Description: This lesson teaches research, documentation, use of the internet, and varied computer skills, along with oral communication skills while introducing students to people who have “made history” in Michigan, women in the United States, people who contributed to our history from certain time periods. This is also a lesson in an alternative report form called the “cube project”.

Narrative:

- This lesson is very successful because students are very proud to be able to show and explain their project. Students who often do not do well on the traditional report style can and do excel here.
- This lesson meets a variety of curricular goals. If you are doing Michigan History, one can provide a list of Michiganians for students to select from to research. You can provide a list of American Women who have contributed to the development of the United States for an American History class as well as men and women of an era in American History or the world. The teacher has the flexibility to select who is to be researched.
- Students work on this project very diligently while in the library and they are very eager to “show off their” final product.
- Students will use high order thinking skills such as: analyzing interpretations of the contributions made by their selected individual, using primary or secondary resources students will analyze significant events that made their individual a contributor to the Building Blocks of our nation, and students will evaluate whether or not their

individual should be considered as a Building Block of the nation by citing specific researched revealed.

Technology adds to this assignment for a number of reasons. First, students can be instructed on how to use an on-line encyclopedia if your school has access. Or students can use specific internet sites such as [http:// www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com) and <http://nwphp.org/links.html> , or <http://women.eb.com/women/crossroads05.html> , or encarta.com.

Students will also use word processing skills such as setting margins and tabs, copy and paste information from the internet reading to a word document.

Curriculum Benchmarks:

MI.SOC.I.2.MS.2 Identify and explain how individuals in history demonstrated good character and personal virtue.

MI.SOC.I.2.MS.4 Use historical biographies to explain how events from the past affected the lives of individuals and how some individuals influenced the course of history.

MI.SOC.V.2.MS.2 Gather and analyze information using appropriate information technologies to answer the question posed.

Total amount of time for lesson:

This lesson can be completed by spending one hour a day for 5 to 8 days.

Materials/Hardware/Software:

1. An outline for construction of a cube 6 inches by 6 inches by 6 inches is necessary to use as a pattern for students.
2. Computer with access to the internet and a word processing program. (either MAC or WIN)
3. On-line license for an encyclopedia or CD ROM Encyclopedia. Encarta, Groliers.

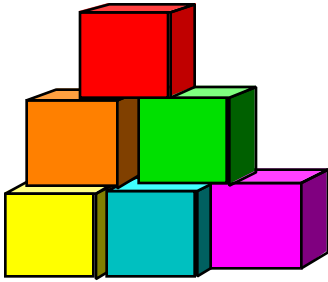
Teacher Preparation:

First teachers must decide on the focus of the assignment. They can chose from people from Michigan History, Women in History, People from the 1870's to the Present that helped to build America, African Americans, or World Figures. Teachers must make a list for students from which to choose their person. Teachers need to make a pattern of a cube from which students can trace and create their cube out of heavy weight paper. It should only take at most an hour to prepare the list and makethe cube pattern. Teachers need to be able to use the internet and word processing skills in Word or Claris Works.

Prerequisite Student Skills:

- 1) Students need to know how to access the web.
- 2) Students need to know basic word processing skills.
- 3) Students need to be able to read and comprehend on a 4th grade or higher reading ability to comprehend Social Studies content.
- 4) Students may need to be taught how to set margins, so material written will fit on the side of a cube.

Student Activities/Procedures: The following activity sheet explains all the procedures necessary for this lesson. This entire lesson can take 5-8 days of research and 2-3 days to assemble.



The Building Blocks of the Nation

Name of the famous person you are researching: _____

Date Due: _____

Name _____

To complete this project you will need six sides to form a cube. Do not lose the pattern attached. Heavy weight paper or cardboard make good cubes.

The following is a list of what will be put on each side of the cube. Remember to be neat, colorful and creative.

Side 1 - Draw or trace a picture of your person. Make sure you label the person's name on this side as well.

Side 2 - Draw or trace a picture of the accomplishment of your person.

Side 3 - using a biographical library book about your person, include 8-10, basic facts about your person's life. Include such information as birthplace and date, schooling, what their childhood was like and any facts that contributed to their accomplishment. Include source used: Title and Author.

Side 4 - Using one of the internet sites provided locate biographical information about your famous person. In your own words summarize what the article states about your person. Make sure you include the URL address used. Sites that can be used are: [http:// www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com) and [http:// nwhp.org/links.html](http://nwhp.org/links.html) , or <http://women.eb.com/women/crossroads05.html> , or <http://www.encyclopedia.com>.

Side 5 - Read and summarize from a textbook source, what it says about your famous person and include the pages you found the information. If your textbook does not include your person use an encyclopedia (not an on-line encyclopedia).

Make

sure you include the textbook title and author or encyclopedia used.

Side 6 - If you were writing a history textbook would you include or omit your person?

Be specific as to why and back up your answers with examples.

Examples of Famous People and categories that could be used:

Famous Michigan Persons	US Women 1870-1990	US Nation Builders
Ralph Bunche	Ida Tarbell	Kit Carson
Malcolm X	Amelia Earhart	Daniel Boone
Ty Cobb	Margaret Sanger	Robert Fulton
Charles W. Post	Carrie Nation	Francis Scott Key
Thomas Edison	Susan B. Anthony	Dewitt Clinton
Coleman Young	Jane Addams	Cyrus McCormick
Henry Ford	Eleanor Roosevelt	John Deere
Dr. W. K. Kellogg	Shirley Chisholm	Zebulon Pike
Charles Lindbergh	Sally Ride	Oliver H. Perry
Joe Louis	Juliet Gordon Low	Henry Clay
Diana Ross	Hillary Clinton	Frederick Douglass
Sojourner Truth	Harriet Tubman	Stephen Douglass
Gerald Ford	Ida B. Wells	Stephen Austin

Assessment/Evaluation: Each side is evaluated for content, neatness, following directions. Correct use of technology, documenting sources and overall appearance are also awarded points.

Decade Project Evaluation

Name _____ 50 Points Total

- Side 1- Drawing or tracing of person; in color and name visible. 5 pts. _____
- Side 2- Drawing or tracing of accomplishment; color and labeled. 5 pts. _____
- Side 3- Well written paragraph, including 8-10 basic facts about the famous person. Bibliographic Information cited. 6 pts. _____
- Side 4- Well written summary about the information received from your internet site. Include URL. 6 pts. _____
- Side 5- Well written summary of the textbook material. Include Title of textbook and or encyclopedia. 6 pts. _____
- Side 6- Well written paragraph backed up by examples and specifics as to why or why not your person should be in a history textbook. 6 pts. _____

- Overall neatness and well construction of cube. 4 pts. _____
- Correct use of word processing skills and internet research. 7 pts. _____

- _____
- Oral Presentation to class. Present all six sides. 5 pts. _____
- _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

Comments:

Follow-up Activities: Assign a Biopoem. This was assigned as an optional activity for extra points. Students made their Biopoem into a poster.

This activity was taken from a duplicating book by Research for Better Teaching, Inc., 56 Bellows Hill Road, Carlisle, MA 01741. Phone (508) 369-2294

A BIOPOEM

Line 1 First name
Line 2 Traits which describe the character List 4
Line 3 Relative (brother, sister, wife, husband, etc.) of
Line 4 Lover of... 3 things or people
Line 5 Who feels 3 items
Line 6 Who needs 3 items
Line 7 Who fears 3 items
Line 8 Who gives 3 items
Line 9 Who would like to see... 3 items
Line 10 Resident of
Line 11 Last name