



Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

Explorer Project

School: Veterans Memorial School
Subject: Social Studies, Computers

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Grade: 5

Introduction:

This lesson plan teaches students about explorers and the importance of their explorations. It is divided into three forty-five minute classes.

Objectives:

- Each student will select an explorer to research.
- Students will use the Internet to research their explorer. They will need to answer a list of questions and find a picture of their explorer.
- Students are to make a “WANTED” poster of their explorer using the information from their research.
- Each student will share their poster and information with the class.

Materials:

- Poster paper
- Pencils
- Crayons and/or markers

Procedure:

Day 1:

Each student will select an explorer to research. Explorer names (enough so that each student can get one) are individually written, folded, and put in a container. Each student selects an explorer’s name. Each student is given an “Explorer Project” worksheet. The class will then go to the computer lab to research their explorers. They will need to find the information to complete the worksheet. Also, they need to find a picture of their explorer, if available. The information can be written on the worksheet, but the picture must be printed.



The Friendship in Salem.



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Day 2:

Students are going to use the information on their explorers to make “WANTED” posters. The teacher will demonstrate a “WANTED” poster on the board. Each student will be given a poster. They are to make a “WANTED” poster of their explorer using the information from their research. If they were unsuccessful in obtaining an image of their explorer, they may use their imagination and create their own picture.

Day 3:

Each child will show and explain their explorer to the class.

Evaluation:

- **Individual:** Posters display correct, detailed information of explorer researched.
- **Teacher:** Observation of students researching their explorers on the Internet.



On board the Friendship at the Salem Maritime NHS.

Culminating Activity:

Bring students on a field trip to the Salem Maritime National Historic Site. They will participate in two different activities that they can connect with their research of explorers. This will show the impact the explorers made. First, they will participate in the Apprentice Shipwright Skills. This program uses specially designed, hands-on stations to learn how sailing vessels were built in the 19th century for voyages to the West Indies, Africa, China, and Europe. Then, they will participate in the Trade Routes and Trade Goods. This program explores exotic products and the routes taken to acquire them.



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Some Suggested Explorers:

Eric the Red	Vasco Nuñez de Balboa
Leif Ericson	Louis Joliet
Marco Polo	Jacques Marquette
Christopher Columbus	Ferdinand Magellan
Juan Ponce de León	Bartholomeu Dias
Hernándo Cortés	Vasco Da Gama
Amerigo Vespucci	Sir Francis Drake
Álvar Núñez Cabeza da Vaca	James Cook
John Davis	Martin Frobisher
Francisco Vásquez de Coronado	Niccolò da Conti
Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo	Hernando DeSoto
Giovanni Verrazano	John Cabot
Jacques Cartier	Samuel de Champlain
Henry Hudson	Aḥmad Ibn Faḍlān
Zheng He	Roald Amundsen
Ernest Shackleton	Frederick A. Cook
Robert E. Peary	Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen
Richard Byrd	Neil A. Armstrong



Name: _____

Explorer Project Worksheet

Name of Explorer: _____

You are to research the following questions:

🌀 When was he born and when did he die? (month and year)

🌀 What country did he explore for?

🌀 Dates of exploration:

🌀 What ship(s) did he travel on?

🌀 What places did he explore?

🌀 Why is he important?