

Santa Fe Trail

Brenda Block, Chillicothe High School, 9-12, Special Education

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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: The lesson is a component of the unit study of Westward Expansion of the United States. It provides students with an opportunity to concentrate on historical and political aspects of the Santa Fe Trail. This lesson covers the significance of the Santa Fe Trail in this movement.

Essential Question: What was the impact of the Santa Fe Trail on the westward movement of the people in America?

Objectives:

As a result of completing this unit, students will be able to...

- discuss some of the cultural, political, and personal issues that travelers of the Santa Fe Trail were confronted with.
- use the Internet to locate resources related to the Santa Fe Trail and incorporate information from these resources into their evaluation.
- discuss the significant theme of the Santa Fe Trail using the variety of different specifics.
- share their personal reactions to what they have learned in internet research and class discussions.

GLE- Grade 8-obj.6-b,d,e,f

Grade 9-12-obj.2b-g

Assessment: a student generated personal journal covering ten days of travel on the trail. Dates are required. Students may chose to be a trader, traveler, mountain man, guide or military soldier but must identify themselves in the journal. They should share as if recording for future travelers and family.

Students should include people and situations encountered along the way. Strife and Struggles along with geographical notations are topics that need to be integrated.

Materials: Teacher generated Powerpoint presentation of Santa Fe Trail

Smartboard with projector

Computer with internet access

Paper Journal – created by teacher for student logs

Pencils

Recommended Websites for use: (related links can be used also

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/safe/fnl-sft/webvc/vchome2>.

<http://www.santafetrailks.com/>

<http://www.santafetrail.org/>

Class Time: 3 periods approximately 50 minutes in length.

Teacher Input: Students are studying westward expansion. Teacher will provide a Powerpoint presentation of Santa Fe Trail with related websites offered. Students are allowed time to get on the website and research the different aspects of the trail. Teacher uses the presentation for open discussion of information on details presented. Teacher discusses journal requirements and deadlines.

Activities: Santa Fe Trail presentation.

Internet research

Student journaling

Questions for review:

1. What role did the Santa Fe Trail play in the development of the west?
2. Who were the key developers of the Santa Fe Trail?
3. Why did trade flourish by the Trail?
4. What brought about the end of the Trail use?
5. Which route would you have taken if you had traveled the Trail?

Closure: Answer any other questions students might have from research on the Trail. Review the theory, How quickly the west developed as compared to east of the Mississippi and the role the westward trails played in this.

Extension: Students who would like to further research information on the Trail can use the websites listed and linked websites.

References:

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/safe/fnl-sft/webvc/vchome2>.

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