

Lesson Title: What Marks Do We Leave on Society?

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Grade 11, American History

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

Lesson Overview: Cultures throughout history have strived to be remembered. Such examples are: hieroglyphics, cave writings, writings on the walls of covered bridges, autograph rocks, and graffiti. This lesson is designed to help students understand how people throughout the ages have tried to leave their mark on society.

Essential Question(s):

1. What ways have people left their mark on society?
2. Why do people feel the need to carve, write, draw their names on things?
3. Would the markings, carvings, drawings (tagging) that have occurred through history be legal today?

Objectives: After completing this lesson, the students will be able to compare the changing character of American Society and culture during the time of the Santa Fe Trail and the present. Also, the student will be able to identify the role of government in defining and protecting property rights.

Assessment: The students will write an essay explaining how the Santa Fe traders left their mark on society and how that compares with tagging today.

Materials: paper, pencils, computers, graphics attached

Class Time: 1 – 90 minute block plus time for writing the essay

Teacher Input: A discussion of the Santa Fe Trail will be the introduction to this lesson. The students need to understand that the Santa Fe Trail was a way three cultures merged. The trade that developed led to many changes in the American West. The teacher needs to introduce the idea that people throughout time have wanted to be remembered. Many people passed through time without leaving a mark, but many wanted to be remembered. They wanted their lives to count for something. This would be a time to discuss how people have left things behind to show they were there. The teacher could show pictures of hieroglyphics (this is somewhat different in the fact it was also a way of keeping records and writing), pictures painted on cave walls (telling stories), pictures on tepees, writings on the inside of covered bridges, and carving in trees. The main focus will be on pictures of Autograph Rock in Boise City, Oklahoma and graffiti taken in Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico and St. Joseph, Missouri.

Activities: Students will look at the various paintings, drawings, and writings from previous cultures. The students will examine the various pictures of Autograph Rock in Cimarron County, Oklahoma. They will create a list of the signatures and dates located on the rock, specifically looking at the dates from past to most recent. (This should give them an idea that people have continued to use Autographic Rock as a 'sign in register'.

Questions for review:

1. Were the signatures that were carved into Autograph Rock legal at that time? Who owned the rock and the land?
2. Are the signatures and tagging that are painted on public property today legal? Who owns the signs, the trash cans and the property?

Closure: After the lesson is given, this would be a good time for the students to discuss their findings with other students. It would also be a good time for the students to research the legal issues brought up in the discussion.

Extension: This would be a good opportunity to invite lawyers in for a discussion about legal consequences graffiti on public property. It would also be an opportunity to ask law enforcement officials to bring current information on gang related tagging

References:

The following web sites were used to locate some of the graphics in this lesson plan.

blog.bibleplaces.com/uploaded_images/Hierogly...
www.cyclethenile.co.uk/photogallery/images/la...
www.h4ppy.com/blog/uploaded_images/Jebel%20Ac...
www.mimonta.com/.../VA07/CavePaintingLascaux.jpg
https://.../image_archive/samkillstwo2.jpg
www.blackpintohorsefinearts.com/art/thumbs/wi...
farm1.static.flickr.com/212/482591448_58e8ab1...
www.thegirlinthecafe.com/images/2007/loveactu
farm1.static.flickr.com/121/276659328_a44d6cb

Graphics:

Egyptian Hieroglyphics



Cave Paintings



Native American Hide Paintings



Covered Bridge Writings



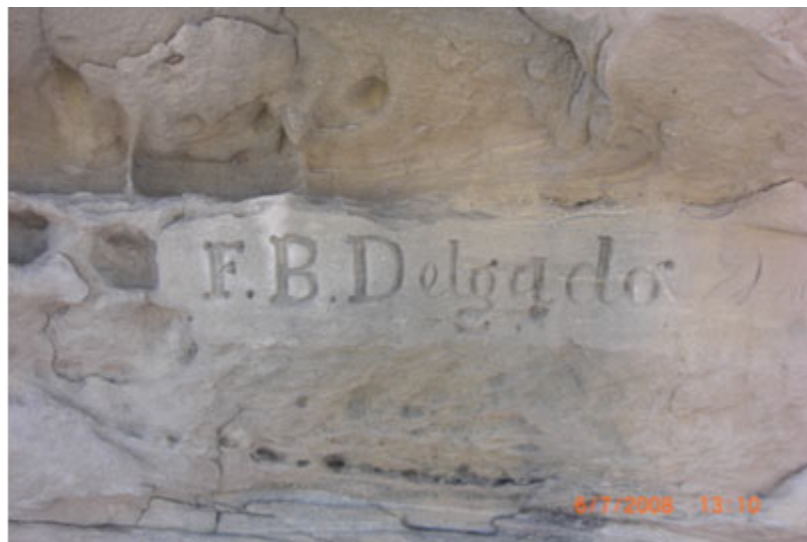
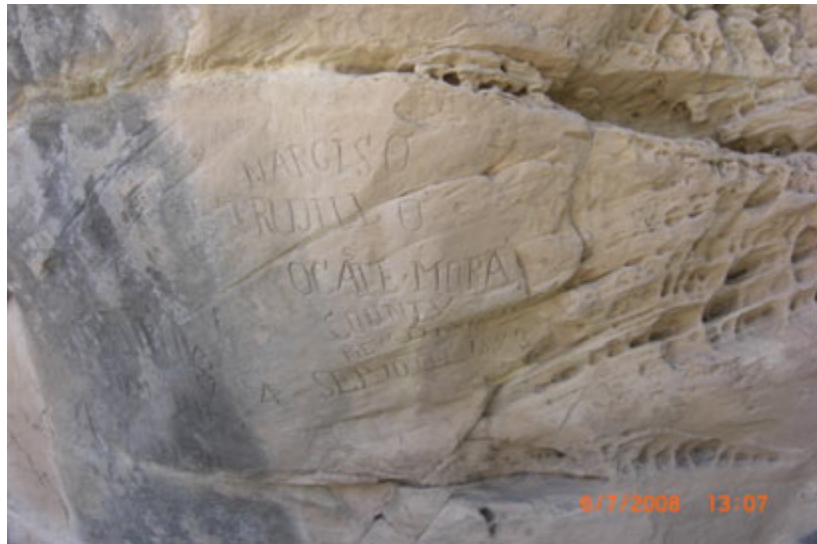
Tree Carvings



Autograph Rock, Boise City, Oklahoma

Santa Fe Trail





Graffiti on the streets of Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico



Graffiti on the streets of St. Joseph, MO

