

Grade Level: First

Title of Lesson: Lewis & Clark Map the Playground

Unit Title: Changing Country

Performance Standard(s) Covered:

SS1H1: The student will read about and describe the life of historical figures in American history.

a. Identify the contributions made by these figures: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with Sacagawea, Harriet Tubman, Theodore Roosevelt, and George Washington Carver.

Essential Question: How did Lewis and Clark create maps of the United States and how do we use maps today?

Objective: Students will learn about the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clarke and the importance of the maps they created on their journey. They will also discuss the basic components of a map and how they are useful for us today, then create their own map of the school playground or other space.

Key Words and Terms: Expedition, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, map

Learning Activity

Abstract: Students will begin by discussing Lewis and Clark and their expedition, focusing specifically on their contribution of mapping the Louisiana Purchase. They will then talk about what a map is, explain why they are important, and come up with common uses of a map today. Examples of different kinds of maps (country, state, city, roadmap, “map” of a building, etc) are shown either on the board or passed around for the students to observe. Finally, students will pretend to be Lewis and Clark while drawing their own “maps” of the school playground (or library or classroom).

Materials Needed:

Paper

Pencils

Clipboard for each student

Printed examples of maps (enough to pass around) or pictures to show on SmartBoard

Printed name tag for each student (attached below, optional)

String for name tag

Safety Concerns: N/A

Procedure:

- Before the lesson, print, cut out, hole punch, and tie a string on each name tag to go around each student's neck. Also, make sure your teacher has clipboards for each student.
- Begin by discussing the Louisiana Purchase and the expedition of Lewis and Clark. Show a map of Lewis and Clark's journey across the United States. Tell how they created maps of the land as they traveled.
- Discuss what a map is with the students. Show examples of different types of maps either on the SmartBoard or by printing out examples and passing them around. Ask students to give examples of how people use maps and why they are important.
- Give each student a name tag, paper, clipboard, and a pencil and have them write their names on the paper. Explain to them that they are going to create their own maps just like Lewis and Clark. Make sure they understand what is supposed to go on their maps. If they are mapping the playground, they need to have the sidewalk, benches, playset, etc. You may also ask them to label the things on their maps so we know what they are.
- Take the students to the playground (or library or classroom) and let them draw their maps. Make sure they stay within a designated area and check on each student to make sure they stay on task.
- When they are done, bring them back in the classroom and discuss the activity. Was it easy or hard? What items did they include on their maps? What kinds of things were probably on Lewis and Clark's maps?

Notes and Tips: It was raining the days I did this activity, so I used the media center instead of the playground and I think that worked out better. If using the media center, make sure you get permission from the librarian beforehand. I broke the class into two groups of ~10 students and worked with each group on a separate day. This worked very well since they spread out while working on their maps and it was easier to keep up with a smaller group at a time. The name tags are optional, but my students thought they were great and wore them the rest of the day! The clipboards are only absolutely necessary if they are drawing outside, but it still allows them to move around more regardless of the area they are "mapping".

References: n/a



Explorer

William Clark



Explorer

Meriwether Lewis



Explorer

William Clark