

UNDERSTANDING CANADA'S FIRST NATIONS THROUGH THE FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

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Description:

In this activity, students will use prior knowledge to explore several different groups of Canada's First Nations using the Five Themes of Geography. First Nations groups may include, but are not limited to, the Inuit, Ojibway, Huron, Iroquois, and Cree. Students will work in cooperative learning groups to disseminate knowledge to one another. The culminating activity will include a visual aid and an oral presentation by each group to their classmates.

Grade Level(s):

Grade 6

Subject(s):

Social Studies and Geography

Duration:

Two weeks, approximately 10 hours

Goals:

Students will relate and identify one group of People in Canada through exploration of the Five Themes of Geography.

Objectives:

The student will:

- Describe the interactions and contributions of various First Nation tribes.
- Research First Nation groups, using the Five Themes of Geography.
- Share information with classmates through the use of a visual aid and an oral presentation.

Standards:

The following Colorado State Standards will be met through this project:

- History Standard #3: The Nature of Societies
Students understand the nature of societies, which societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- Geography Standard #4: Processes Shaping Human Patterns
Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human population interdependence, cooperation and conflict.

Background Information:

Prior to this activity, students will have studied and participated in several activities related to the Five Themes of Geography (See "Description of the Five Themes of Geography for Teacher Use".)

Materials:

Description of the Five Themes of Geography for Teacher Use*
Review: Five Themes of Geography*
First Nations of Canada Final Presentation Rubric*
First Nations of Canada Note Taking Chart*
First Nations of Canada Project Format Guide*
Canadian research materials and Internet search time
Butcher paper and/or poster board
Colored pencil, borders, construction paper

*Materials can be found following this unit plan.

Procedures:

1. Briefly review what the Five Themes of Geography are and why they are important in a study of Geography.
2. Assign each Cooperative Learning group a People of Canada to research. The Five Themes of Geography are location, place, movement, human/environment interaction, and region. They will create a visual aid to demonstrate their understanding of the People as related to the Five Themes.
3. Using a Venn diagram, student will choose two Peoples presented and complete a Compare and Contrast sheet.
4. Students will choose two of the First Nations researched in class. Using the information related to each First Nation, students will write a three to five paragraph compare/contrast essay.
5. An oral presentation will be given by each Cooperative Learning group on their assigned People, while the rest of their classmates are taking notes based on the Five Themes on chart provided by the teacher. Time will be given at the end of each presentation for class questions.

Assessment:

Each student will be graded on evidence of research on the First Nations based on the Five Themes of Geography, a visual aid, and an oral presentation. Members of each student's group will provide the teacher with his/her assessment of the group member. These scores will be averaged, and considered one-quarter of the student's grade. Each student will also be responsible for completing the "First Nations of Canada Note-Taking Chart." This will be completed as each group presents on their First Nation.

Additional Notes

The concept of this project is for students to recognize how the First Nations of Canada have evolved, using the Five Themes of Geography as a guide.