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LESSON PLAN

Lesson Topic: Conflicts in the Delta

Grade Level: 9-12

Broad-Based Theme: Place as Text in the Most Southern Place on Earth

Generalizations (3 or 4):

1. Man has confronted nature in its many forms, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and windstorms in the Mississippi Delta.
2. Man has confronted other men, causing conflicts involving race, status, wealth, education, and perception in the Mississippi Delta.
3. Man has confronted the issues that the lack of time/the passage of time has created that remain difficult to resolve in the Mississippi Delta.
4. Man has confronted his own limitations that are peculiar to the challenges caused by the Mississippi Delta.

Guiding Questions (GQ):

1. Why has the Mississippi River been an especially challenging environment for man to deal with in the past two hundred years?
2. Why have the people who settled in the Mississippi Delta been remarkably willing to face the challenges of nature and remain in the Delta?
3. Why has the Mississippi Delta attracted people of a wide variety of ethnicities and cultures, even though that has caused continuing conflicts?
4. What has been the role of religion in the willingness of people to deal with the challenges presented by the Mississippi Delta and its culture?

Lesson Plan Objective(s):	Gen/GQ #	Procedure:	Materials/Resources	Evaluation related to objectives
1. To determine what specific issues are presented by the Mississippi Delta, demographics, and environment	1,2,3	<p>A. Introduction/Motivation</p> <p>Students will examine a map of the Mississippi Delta, its feeder rivers, and a GPS map of the United States and the role of the river in the geography of the country. As they notice how key this river is in the settlement of the United States, we will talk about how the country is settled, the role of rivers, and specifically who and how people chose where they wanted to live when they came to America. We will watch the introduction to Biography of America on “Immigrants to America”, Episode 16.</p>	<p>1. GPS map of the United States to show the students that reflects the United States and river valleys, including the alluvial plains surrounding the Mississippi River.</p> <p>2. Individual maps for the students to complete that reflect the demographics of the United States in 1776, 1820, and 1890.</p>	<p>1. Students will be able to identify why the Mississippi Delta was settled by such a wide variety of people over such a long period of time.</p>
2. To determine the role of religion, culture, and heritage in the ability of people to deal with the conflicts inherent in the Mississippi Delta culture.	2,4	<p>B. Study/Learning Activities</p> <p>Students will be given a map of the U.S. and asked to identify the settlement patterns of the people who came to the country at three different points in history. Once they have</p>	<p>3. Atlases for students to use that reflect demographic information for students to use in completing the maps.</p> <p>4. Texts for students to read that tells the story of the Mississippi Delta from</p>	<p>2. Students will be able to determine the kinds of cultures and heritages represented in the people who settled in the Mississippi Delta.</p> <p>3. Students will be able to use an atlas and a map to create their own map that gives them the essential information to answer specific questions.</p>
3. To determine when the Mississippi Delta was settled, by				

<p>whom, and why those particular people chose the Delta.</p>		<p>done this, they will be asked a variety of questions about what they see, including the identification of patterns, climates sought by immigrants, types of climates sought by specific peoples, and waves of immigration. They will be asked to identify what role they see being played by the rivers in this country.</p> <p>C. Culmination</p> <p>The culminating activity will be a discussion of the role of the Mississippi River and the Delta in the settlement of this country. Who moved there, why, and when? What conflicts did they face? Why did they persevere? What were the rewards? What were the penalties for their choices? Why did it turn out to be such a challenging place? Was it worth it?</p> <p>D. Follow-up</p> <p>Students will seek out oral histories of the people of the Mississippi Delta, stories of the Civil Rights Movement that happened there, the role of the cotton plantations, race relations, the Emmett Till case, and the music of the Mississippi Delta as enrichment choices.</p>	<p>1860-1900, including excerpts from <u>River Rising</u>, <u>The Most Southern Place on Earth</u>, and <u>The Mississippi Delta and Its History</u>.</p> <p>4. Questions on an overhead or on individual sheets for students to complete that ask the essential identified questions.</p>	<p>4. Students will be able to use text to interpret questions about the roles of the Mississippi Delta's challenges in the conflicts that were met by the people who settled there.</p>
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