

Culture Unit

Purpose: students will examine the culture of Pendleton, Oregon and produce a presentation that compares their culture to that of the Mississippi Delta

Day 1-3: Unrehearsed Speeches

- give 2 minute speech on one of the topics listed below
- take notes on the speeches of others

Day 4: Family Interviews

- discuss basic interviewing skills (how to ask questions, how to approach interviewees, how to take notes, etc)
- ask parents, grandparents, etc to answer questions about music to find out
 - * what music is currently popular?
 - * what music was popular a generation ago?
 - * what music was popular two generations ago?
 - * what genres of music have been played live in Pendleton in the last three generations?
 - * where is live music played in/near Pendleton now?
 - * who are the local musicians? where can they be found? what genres do they play/record in?

Day 5: Reflection

- what did students find out that they expected?
- what did students find out that they didn't expect?
- list information gathered and discuss what it means

Day 6: The Delta

- show students presentation of Delta Culture (I can send this to you later if you'd like)
- discuss how the Delta ties into Pendleton -- similarities/differences

Day 7: Delta Music

- show students presentation of Delta Music (I can also send this to you later if you'd like)
- discuss how Delta music ties into Pendleton -- similarities/differences
- discuss the Delta's impact on the United States in general and the PNW in particular

Day 8: Focusing

- develop a class definition of culture
- figure out what elements of the family interviews show local culture
- figure out major elements of Delta culture

Day 9: Focusing

- students will pick an aspect of culture as defined in Day 8
- students will compare and contrast that element of culture in Pendleton and the Delta
 - * students will develop a thesis for their project
(it is possible students may work in groups of three depending on the class)
- students will develop a scoring guide for the presentations

Day 10-11: Lab Day to develop presentation

Day 12-15: Presentations