

Characteristics of the States

by Luanne Holt

Standards

- IL.1.C.1f > Use information presented in simple tables, maps and charts to form an interpretation.
- IL.5.A.1a > Identify questions and gather information.
- IL.5.A.1b > Locate information using a variety of resources.
- IL.5.A.2b > Organize and integrate information from a variety of sources (e.g., books, interviews, library reference materials, websites, CD-ROMs).
- IL.5.C.2b > Prepare and deliver oral presentations based on inquiry or research.
- IRA.7.3 ...teach students to connect prior knowledge with new information
- IRA.8.1 ...provide opportunities to locate and use a variety of print, nonprint, and electronic reference sources

Resources

www.loc.gov

Explore the 50 States - game

Celebrate the 50 States by Loreen Leedy

The Train of States by Peter Sis

www.50states.com

Overview and Rationale

Overview: I will teach students the importance of their country by showing them different characteristics of their home state of Illinois. Then I will allow students to explore different states to find characteristic of those states.

Students will understand what makes these states unique and how they contribute to our nation.

Rationale: It is important for students to understand the geography of the United States. It is important for students to understand that each state contributes to the nation in different ways whether it is through agriculture or industry.

Objectives

The students will:

identify the 50 states on a map

identify unique characteristics of the state they are researching

draw a symbol that represents the state they are researching

share among classmates their findings in the research of their state

Materials

computer with internet access
projector
large map of the United States
poster board
construction paper
crayons/markers
scissors
paper
pencils

Procedure:

To start the lesson, ask students what they know about the state of Illinois.

Record student responses on the board.

Use the projector to go to the website www.loc.gov . From there go to the game "explore the 50 states." I will click on Illinois and read what the page

says about Illinois.

After Illinois, allow students to pick another state they want to know facts about. We will explore 3 other states with the website for students to have an understanding of how each state has unique qualities.

As we explore the states, put an X on the state to represent that the class explored the facts of those states.

Read "Train of States" by Peter Sis.

Activity:

Divide students into pairs.

I will pass around a hat with the names of the other states that were not covered in the class discussion.

Students will work in pairs to research their state finding facts about that state using the Internet and books.

Students will create a poster of their state representing different facts about that state.

Closure:

When posters are complete, students will present their posters to the class discussing the different facts they found in their research.

While pairs are presenting, students will have a blank map to write facts for the states being discussed.

For students with special needs:

Give them certain facts for them to research such as: state bird, state flower, capitol, etc.

For advanced students:

Research two states

Assessment

Evaluation of the students will include:

1. Teacher observation -
how well students worked in their pairs?
how students used their time for research?

2. Poster board -
Did students follow instructions correctly?
What information was discovered for their state?
Is the poster neat and organized?