

# Researching the United States of America

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## Lesson Plan

### Overview:

Each student will use technology to access information regarding a state in the United States. They will read individually and gather key facts that they will later share with a group of their classmates.

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

### Objectives:

Each student will use technology to acquire important information regarding a state in the US. They will create a short summary that highlights the facts that are important about their state. Students then share their summary with a group of other students in the class.

### Rationale:

Using the *Library of Congress* website as a resource provides students with the opportunity to work with technology. Students will get practice in research methodologies, gaining the knowledge that print comes from a variety of sources and serves a variety of functions. Finally, sharing the data gathered with other students will reinforce the knowledge and enhance communication skills.

### Standards:

IL.5.A STANDARD: Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.

IL.5.A.1a > Identify questions and gather information.

IL-PTS.1.I P: TCT designs learning experiences to promote student skills in the use of technologies appropriate to the discipline.

IRA.12.4 ...select and evaluate instructional materials for literacy, including those that are technology-based

IRA.5.6 ...promote the integration of language arts in all content areas

### Materials/Resources/Equipment:

- Computer lab
- Access to website: <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es>
- Paper for students to keep notes/print notes

### Procedure:

1. Introduce students to the *Library of Congress* website and model how they will find their information

2. Assign each student a state to research
3. Provide each student access to a computer to do their research
4. Provide the web address <http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es> and help students get to the website
5. Students click on assigned state and individually read the information provided about the state
6. Students take notes with key information about their state
7. Once all students have information, place into small groups for discussion
8. In small groups, students share the information that they researched about their state

**Assessment:**

- (Informal) Observation of students during sharing time in small groups
  - Teacher assesses for:
    - Communication skills
    - Teamwork
    - Participation
- (Formal) Students hand in notes with key information
  - Teacher assesses for:
    - Quality of information
    - Thoroughness of information
    - Summary skills