

Virginia Studies

This project provides valuable reinforcement for students studying 4th grade social studies.

Curriculum/State Standards

The fourth grade curriculum requires that students study the geography and history of the state of Virginia. This project teaches and reinforces the standards that are explained in the Virginia Standards of Learning for 4th grade.

Overview

The students took an active approach to the study of Virginia. They constructed dioramas and relief maps, listened to stories about Virginia, and completed research projects about Virginia. They used Virginia Experience books to study for standardized tests on Virginia Studies.

Objectives

The student will identify the regions of Virginia and construct a clay relief map showing the different regions.

The student will study the relationship between the Powhatan people and the English settlers at Jamestown. Students will construct models of the Indian village and fort at Jamestown.

The student will study famous Virginians. The student will use biographies in the library and on-line resources to write a report about a famous Virginian and share it with the class.

The student will use library resources to research major battles of the Civil War in Virginia. Students will use their research to create a Powerpoint presentation about the Civil War in Virginia.

The student will use Virginia Experience books to help review major concepts of the course of Virginia studies prior to taking the end of grade Virginia Studies test.

Materials

model magic clay, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, Accelerated Reader tests, Virginia My State series of library books, Virginia Experience books class set

Readiness Activity

At the start of the year, students took a benchmark test to determine their knowledge of Virginia Studies prior to beginning the unit of study. Before having students complete the research component of the project, we read books about Virginia to the class. Students also read their Virginia textbooks/Virginia atlases before they began constructing relief maps of the state.

Strategies/Activities

Starting in September, students studied the geography of the state of Virginia. They identified the different regions, major cities located in the regions, and places of interest in each region. Students used atlases, textbooks, and on-line resources to learn these concepts. After completing a unit of Virginia geography, students worked in collaborative groups to construct clay relief maps of the state of Virginia.

During the second quarter of school, students studied the colonization of Virginia. Students studied the Jamestown settlement in detail. Students used library resources, textbooks, and on-line resources to research life in the settlement. Students constructed dioramas depicting life in Jamestown and the Powhatan village. The dioramas were displayed in the hallway for all students to see.

4

GRADE LEVEL



7

MONTHS

\$499

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING PROJECT IDEA SUBMITTED BY:

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Virginia Studies

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During the third quarter, students used textbooks and library resources to research famous Virginians and the Civil War. Students took Accelerated Reader tests on the biographies they read in order to check reading comprehension. Students wrote reports and created Powerpoints to synthesize their research.

The final quarter of the school year was devoted to reviewing concepts studied throughout the course. Students used the Virginia Experience workbooks to help them review Virginia History and Geography.

Culminating Activity

Students took a field trip to Jamestown to see what life was like in Jamestown colony.

Evaluation Method

- Teacher observation
- rubrics used to evaluate the relief maps, dioramas, and Powerpoints
- Grading class work done in the Virginia Experience books
- Accelerated Reader tests on biographies read by students
- Grading homework done in the Virginia Experience books
- checking the grades on the SOL end of grade tests for Virginia Studies

The grades for class work, quizzes, unit tests, and homework activities related to Virginia Studies was collected in the classroom teacher's grade book and used for calculating social studies grades for the students' report cards.