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Title: Patty Reed's Doll: The Story of the Donner Party

Subject: Social Studies/Language Arts/Math/Fine Arts

Grades 4-5

Description: This lesson plan is designed to help students understand and explore for themselves what it must have been like to be a part of the westward movement. They will experience the journey through the eyes of a doll belonging to eight year old Patty Reed, a member of the Donner Party. Students will participate in writing activities, computer simulations, internet research, and computer generated projects.

Faith Integration: The students will be given the opportunity to discuss the faith that Patty and others of the Donner party had in God, and their belief that God would see them through their horrible journey. The students will share "valley" experiences they've had in their lives, and discuss whether their faith remained strong during those times.

Curriculum Benchmarks:

Computer

*Students are proficient in the use of technology. (NETS 1)

*Students practice responsible use of technology systems, information, and software.

(NETS 2)

*Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works. (NETS 3)

*Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources. (NETS 5)

Language Arts

*The students will write journal entries from the point of view of a member of the Donner Party using correct grammar and punctuation.

Materials/Hardware/Software:

Patty Reed's Doll The Story of the Donner Party by Rachel K. Laugaard

A Teacher's Guide to Patty Reed's Doll: The Story of the Donner Party by

Louise Baldwin

Broderbund Kid Pix Deluxe 3 by the Learning Company

Oregon Trail Software (any version)

Internet Access

Teacher Preparation:

1. The teacher will already have led the class through discussions and activities related to each chapter of the book.
2. Copy the questions at: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/patty/questions.html> for "Pack the Wagon" game.
3. Copy the supply list at: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/patty/supplyslips.JPG> and cut the items apart.
4. Prepare and copy student guidelines for slide show (see page 4)

Student Preparation:

1. Students will have read all but the last chapter of the book, Patty Reed's Doll.
2. Students will have completed daily journals of their travels as if they are one of the characters in the book, including a notation of the date and location.
3. The students will know how to access the internet and particular websites, and how to save pictures to a folder.
4. The students will know how to make a slide show using Kid pix.
5. The students will know how to add a graphic from some other source to a Kid pix slide show.

Activities/Procedures

1. The students will participate in a game called "Pack the Wagon." The directions can be found at: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/patty/directions.html> . In this game the students will be divided into teams, and will be given review questions about the book to answer. For each answer they get correct, they can earn supplies for their trip west.
2. Once the wagons are packed, the students will "hit the trail." This will include making a slide show using Kid pix to portray the wagon train at no less than 5 different settings along the trail. The students can refer back to their journals to decide which settings they would like to choose. Each slide showing a place should be accompanied by another slide giving a brief description of that place, and what, if any, significant events took place there. This can be an entry taken directly from the students' journals.
3. The students will celebrate their arrival in California by sharing with other travelers (students) their memories (slide show) of the trip.

Guidelines for Slide Show

Patty Reed's Doll The Story of the Donner Party

1. Title slide – Be sure to include a picture of Patty Reed's Doll. A picture can be found at: <http://www.sacbee.com/static/archive/ourtown/history/reeddoll.html>
2. Include a minimum of 5 slides showing different settings from the story. Each slide should include a background taken from either Kid pix or the internet. Stamps and stickers may be used to add the wagons, oxen, Indians, etc. to the background as needed.
3. Include a minimum of 5 slides giving a brief descriptive paragraph about each setting and any significant events that took place there. These paragraphs can be taken from your journals, and modified as needed. Include the date and location in each entry. Create a background for these pages as well, even if it is just a solid color. Make sure the font is in a color and size that is easy to read.
4. Arrange the slides in chronological order. Put the journal entry first, then the slide showing the setting.
5. Save the slide show to a folder with your name on it.
6. Present your slide show to the class.

Follow-up Activities

1. Take a **field trip** to Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, CA, the final destination of the Donner Party. Have the students sit on the lawn and listen as the teacher reads the final touching chapter, entitled "Sutter's Fort," to the students. In this chapter Patty reveals to her mother the secret that she has carried her doll with her all this way, hidden in her dress, when they were told to leave everything behind. She seeks her mother's forgiveness, only to find that her mother is glad Patty had her doll to comfort her through all the days of misery. After finishing the book, ask the students if they would like to see Patty's doll. Then take them inside the fort where Patty's doll is on display, so they can see it for themselves!
2. **Discussion** – Discuss with students the faith that many of the Donner Party showed throughout their horrible journey. Encourage the students to share their most difficult trial in life, and whether it came anywhere close to what the Donner Party went through. Share ideas together of things that they feel they can do to keep their faith strong during difficult times.
3. Allow the students time to play the simulation game, Oregon Trail.

Assessment

Students' performance on their slide show will be evaluated using the rubric on page 6.



Create Rubrics for your Project-Based-Learning Activities

Multimedia Project: **Patty Reed's Doll Slide Show**

Teacher name: Mrs. Cotton

Student Name _____

CATEGORY	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Content	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent.	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good.	Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors.	Content is minimal OR there are several factual errors.
Attractiveness	Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation.	Makes good use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance to presentation.	Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the presentation content.	Use of font, color, graphics, effects etc. but these often distract from the presentation content.
Mechanics	No misspellings or grammatical errors.	Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors.	Four misspellings and/or grammatical errors.	More than 4 errors in spelling or grammar.
Organization	Content is well organized using chronological order.	Uses chronological order most of the time.	Content is in chronological order some of the time.	Does not organize using chronological order
Oral Presentation	Interesting, well-rehearsed with	Relatively interesting,	Delivery not smooth, but	Delivery not smooth and

	smooth delivery that holds audience attention.	rehearsed with a fairly smooth delivery that usually holds audience attention.	able to hold audience attention most of the time.	audience attention lost.
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Date Created: 2003-06-08

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