Kathryn Dussault

EDUC 396

Web Project Lesson Plan

**Unit Topic or Theme:** Geography

**Grade:** 5th Grade

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**Lesson Topic or Theme:** United States Capitals

**Lesson Objectives:**

* Students will be able to locate and label all 50 states on the U.S. map
* Students will be able to state at least one fact about each state
* Students will be able to know the capital of each state in the U.S.
* Students will be able to complete the online activity on the U.S. capitals

**Instructional Technique:**

* Discussion: We will have a class discussion about the geography of the United States and review prior knowledge of the 50 states
* Group Work: Students will work in small groups and fill out a map of the United States and look up interesting facts about each state

**Instructional Materials:** Pencils, notebooks, U.S. Map worksheet, computers

**Theoretical Perspective:** This information is important for students to learn because the geography of the United States and each states capital is important base knowledge for many different lessons in subjects across the curriculum (History, ELA, etc.). By focusing on each state’s capital students can build on their knowledge of the history of our country and use this information in future lessons. Also, the integration of technology in the lesson is valuable experience with the use of computers and interactive websites.

**Procedure:**

1. Introductory Activity:

We will begin this lesson on United States geography with a class discussion about our country. We will discuss prior knowledge of each state and review a map of the country.

1. Step-by-step:

1. I will let students to split up into small groups to work together on an activity. I will pass out U.S. Map worksheets and allow students to choose books on the U.S. that I will have available at the front of the class. I will also allow brief computer use for each group.

2. I will then explain the directions for the activity. The students will work with their group to fill out a blank map of the United States. They will also work together to look though the available books and use the brief computer time to look up each state capital and search for at least one interesting and useful fact about each state in the U.S. and list it on the back of the worksheet.

3. After each group has completed their worksheet we will come together to discuss as a class. Students will explain some of the most interesting facts they had found while researching the 50 states. I will make notes of useful information on the board.

4. After our class discussion and allowing time for any questions or comments students have, students will split up and work individually. Each student will work on a computer and use the interactive website to help a fictional character, “Traveling Tim”, travel across the United States. To move on through the activity students must answer each question about the state’s capital correctly.

1. Closure:

After the given amount of time, all students will have to have finished the online activity individually. We will then come together as a class once again and discuss the main concepts learned during the lesson. I will answer any questions students have and clear up any misconceptions about the topic. Students will prepare for a test at the end of the week on the capital of each U.S. state.

1. Adaptations for different learners:

While students are working in groups I will walk around the classroom and provide extra help for those struggling with the lesson. ELL students will receive a hand-out with more specific directions that are clear and straight-forward, making it easier for them to understand. In case some students struggle with the use of technology, all students will receive individual guidance and a handout with clear instructions while working with the computers on the online activity. I will also provide a large amount of time throughout the lesson for students to ask questions about the material or instructions of the assignments.

1. Homework:

For homework students will be assigned to list five facts that they learned through some of the links included in the online activity. For each question throughout the activity the student was provided with two links leading to websites about the specific state that the question was on. They were instructed to click on the links and learn more about the state before moving to the next question. This homework assignment will assess if the students followed these specific instructions and understood the information that they were provided with on the websites.

**Evaluation:**

1. How/ when will you determine if you have met your objectives?

As the students are completing the online activity I will move around the classroom and observe their work. I will observe whether they understand the material and get the correct answers or if they are struggle and get several questions incorrect. I will also assess each of the worksheets that were completed earlier in the lesson and determine if the students in the group filled out the map of the U.S. correctly and listed factual information for each state. Once the students turn in their assigned homework I will be able to know if they followed the directions of the online activity and used the links provided to learn more about each state. Also, at the end of the week there will be a formal assessment that will be graded to assess if each individual student met the objectives of the lesson.

1. Concerns or questions you have about teaching this lesson?

I am somewhat concerned that students may struggle with the use of technology throughout the lesson. Also, some students may have a hard time understanding how to research information on the states during group work using the books provided and the internet. Some students may find information on the internet that is not factual and will not understand how to tell the difference between what is factual and what is false information.