

Canada-US: Approaches to Immigration

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Date: July 10, 2008

Description:

After having learned about the US immigration experience, this lesson will allow students to learn about the Canadian immigration experience through comparison and contrast to American immigration and settlement patterns.

Grade Level:

Grade 5 (or Secondary English Immersion class)

Subject:

Social Studies

Duration:

Two 45 minute sessions

Goal:

The goal of this lesson is for students to gain knowledge pertaining to immigration to the United States and Canada, compare and contrast the two, and to discuss possible differences and causes.

Objectives:

The student will:

- learn about and discuss immigration patterns to the United States and Canada
- compare and contrast general immigration and settlement patterns between United States and Canada
- understand various reasons for immigration
- understand that immigration can be controversial

Standards:

This lesson meets state and local standards set by the State of Arizona and is adaptable to national standards for the social studies.

Background Information:

In the week leading up to the lesson, the teacher will give basic information regarding immigration in the United States. Considerable discussion about US immigration will have taken place prior to this lesson being taught.

Materials:

- Computer/Internet access for gathering necessary information
- Video segment of local news report on immigration
- Maps/visuals/regalia showing immigration routes in both the United States and Canada

Procedures:

1. Teacher will bring in taped video segment of local news reporting on the topic of immigration. Teacher will then facilitate a dialogue allowing students to share their opinions regarding immigration and how it has affected their lives. Teacher will then have students define necessary vocabulary words pertinent to the lesson. These

vocabulary words are then written in student vocabulary books with drawings and brief descriptions of the words for reference.

2. Teacher will present current information on immigration and settlement patterns in Canada (available at the Statistics Canada website). Every so often, the teacher should stop and allow the students to dialogue about what they have learned so far. This time could also be used as an informal assessment to see where students' learning gaps may be occurring. The teacher should make a point of stressing the differences between Canada and the United States.

3. Using a Venn diagram, students in small groups will compare and contrast the immigration patterns of the United States and Canada. They will complete the Venn diagram showing the differences and similarities.

4. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by placing the completed Venn diagram on poster board and presenting it to the class.

5. Students will then imagine themselves as an immigrant coming to the United States or Canada for the first time. They will write a brief friendly letter to a family member "back home" sharing their reasons for why they were leaving their homeland. Allow students to share some of their reasons aloud with the class.

Possible Extension:

Students can "interview" their family members asking them their reasons for immigrating to the United States. Students can discuss why more immigrants would come to the United States than Canada. Students can create a made-up country in which they would like to immigrate to and give the reasons why. Students could write about or discuss how their lives would be different if they hadn't immigrated to the United States or if they had immigrated to Canada instead.

Assessment:

1. Teacher will make informal observations of conversation and information shared during the lesson.

2. Students will create Venn diagram to demonstrate their understanding of different immigration patterns of the United States and Canada.

3. Friendly letter will be assessed to see if students transferred information they have learned into a letter to a family member.

4. Students will be assessed by a final test created by the teacher bases on vocabulary terms and crucial information from the lesson.