

ILLINOIS QUILT

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Promoting Geographic Knowledge Through Literature Workshop
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Preview of Main Ideas

In an effort to make my fourth grade students more aware of their surroundings and the state, I wanted to develop an activity that would show them the people, places, animals, and activities that are not only in their surrounding area but also their entire state.

Connection With The Curriculum

These activities may be used in Social Studies, Language Arts, and Art.

Grade Levels: Grades 3 to 6

Themes: Place, Region, Human-Environment Interaction

Standards

Geography Standards include: Places and Regions #4 and #5, Physical Systems #8

Illinois Learning Standards: #16E and #17A

Objectives

The students will be able to

1. Identify characteristics of Illinois
2. List items found in Illinois

3. Create a patchwork quilt that shows different aspects of the state
4. Write a book about Illinois

Materials

The book Heartland written by Diane Siebert Harper Trophy 1989

Isbn: 0-06-443287-4

A large cardstock cutout of Illinois for each student

Construction paper

Glue, paper, pencils

Introduction

As a class look at the pictures of the book Heartland and ask the students to predict what the book might be about.

Read the book out loud to the students.

Lead a discussion of the thoughts and opinions on the book. Were their predictions correct?

Activity

Reread the book to the students slowly.

Have the students make a list of things that they hear in the book but have seen in

Illinois

The students will then take the construction paper and tear small patches of different colors

Have the students glue their patches onto the cardstock cutout of Illinois.

On each patch of their Illinois quilt ask the students to write (draw a picture)

one of the items from their list (things heard in the book and seen in Illinois)

Once their quilt is finished, have the students create a new book, fictional or nonfictional, about Illinois and using the items written on their quilt.

Closure

Have the students read their books out loud to the class.

Extension

Glue all of the Illinois quilts together to make one large class quilt of Illinois.

Have the students read their books and/or share their quilts with students in other classes.

Label your town and other major towns on their Illinois quilt.

Assessment

Oral discussion of the book Heartland

Completed quilts and books