

ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER

Topic: Rivers and tributaries of Illinois

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Grade level: 6-8

Format: Students will identify five major rivers of Illinois and demonstrate their connection to their everyday lives.

Time: 5 class periods (plus field trip)

Materials needed: Illinois state maps

Worksheets

Poster board

Video and audio tapes

Standards:

State Goal 17: Understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States.

Learning Standard A: Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on the Earth.

Middle School 3a: Explain how people use geographic markers and boundaries to analyze and navigate the Earth.

Learning Standard C: Understand relationships between geographic factors and society

3a: Explain how human activity is affected by geographic factors.

National Geography Standard 4: The physical and human characteristics of places

A: Analyze the physical characteristics of places, as exemplified by being able to:

Use maps, graphs, satellite-produced images, or tables to make inferences about the causes and effects of changes over time in physical landscapes.

C: Identify and analyze how technology shapes the physical and human characteristics of places, as exemplified by being able to:

Explain how isolated communities have been changed by technology.

Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the power of the river.
2. To predict the future uses of the river.
3. To make students aware of how rivers influence their lives.

Goals:

1. The student will be able to identify 5 major rivers associated with Illinois.
2. The student will be able to list various uses of a river.
3. The student will demonstrate effects of a river on his/her everyday life.

Procedure:

1. Using a wall map, road map, atlas etc., students with partners will make a list of rivers flowing through Illinois.
2. Students will be introduced to the Illinois River and its tributaries. (Illinois History Teacher 11:2, p. 12 & 13, and other possible sources)
3. Using adapted worksheet (Illinois History Teacher 11:2, p. 14) students will successfully match the tributary to its important event.
4. Students will brainstorm uses of rivers, both past and present.
5. Students will listen to various "river" songs, "river" literature, and/or watch videos of flood of '93, and the Mississippi River trip to New Orleans.
6. Class will discuss problems associated with rivers, including decimation of species.
7. Students will create a poster showing ways that rivers affect their lives.
8. Students will attend Clean Water Celebration in Peoria in spring.

Evaluation:

1. The worksheet will be graded for a total of 30 points.
2. The teacher will create a map test worth 50 points. It will include those rivers forming the boundary of the state, the Illinois River, and the LaMoine River, a tributary in our area.
3. Students will explain the inclusions on their poster and how they relate to the river. They will be given 2 points for each item deemed appropriate by the teacher.