

Lesson Plan Title: “The Almanac Challenge”

Concept / Topic To Teach: Bibliographic Instruction, proper Almanac usage, Information research and retrieval

Class Description: Third grade; average age of students is eight; whole group, individual, small group settings

Duration of Lesson: This lesson will span six consecutive school weeks during bibliographic instruction taking place within the School Library Media Center (42 minute class periods once a week per class). Plus a final Almanac Challenge assembly will be held to culminate concept instruction.

Curriculum Area: This lesson specifically addresses the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standard LA.3.3.1.3 H strand; Inquiry and research, as students will be using print and non-print library classification systems to locate information and will draw conclusions from information and data gathered. In addition, the instruction will also be cross curricular and will address content areas in Language Arts Literacy, Science, Social Studies, and Math through the inquiries made and the records, facts, figures and information retrieved. Through multimedia pedagogical practices and the effective modeling and use of technology, Core Curriculum Content Standards within the curricula of Life Skills, 21st Century Life and Careers, and Technology will also be integrated into the lesson.

Objective:

The learner will be able to identify situations in which the Almanac is the most sensible and efficient source to obtain required information. The student will be able to effectively navigate a table of context and an index to locate information within an Almanac. The learner will be able to develop positive social skills and work cooperatively to complete a task.

Required Materials:

- (30) copies of the World Almanac
- Interactive White Board (IWB) or a minimum of a computer with internet access, speakers, and a projector
- Internet Access to links and to teacher created interactive game board
- Almanac Worksheet
- Student Computers
- Examples of other various Almanacs (see Website for suggested lists of print and non-print resources)
- Access to either online or downloadable version of the Almanac Challenge through www.superteachertools.com

Required Materials Continued:

Prizes (I elect to give out released copies of The World Almanac for Kids to encourage continued use, as new class sets are ordered yearly)

Anticipatory Set:

The teacher will show a YouTube Video to conjure student interest and enthusiasm toward the lesson.

Procedures:

1. The teacher will evoke interest in the lesson by sharing an animated YouTube video, entitled "Library: The Almanac," (see [teacher website](#) for link to video).
2. The teacher will introduce the Almanac providing a definition of almanac as found from Wikipedia.com.
3. The teacher will provide samples of various Almanacs in print and non-print for the class to use.
4. The teacher will set the lesson hook by showing two additional YouTube videos issued by National Geographic and RDBook: "What is the World Almanac" and "Trivia Brain Blasters!" (see [teacher website](#) for links to videos)
5. Student copies of The World Almanac for Kids 2010 will be handed out for students to peruse.
6. The teacher will guide the students on how to use the Table of Contents and the Index to search for information within the text. *Note: Previous lessons have addressed specific skills such as alphabetical order, parts of a book, and the location and usage of both a Table of Contents and an Index. Students will now be shown how to apply those skills in an Almanac.*
7. Students will then be given the opportunity to preview and search using the various online Almanacs.
8. Students will complete various search exercises in whole group setting with guided practice.
10. Students will work independently to complete the Almanac Worksheet to find facts from both a print and non-print Almanac.
11. The students will decipher which type of resource, book or online version, they think is more efficient and user friendly.
12. The teacher will introduce the rules for the Almanac Challenge, a teacher created Jeopardy game that challenges the students to search and locate information within The World Almanac For Kids 2009. Points will be awarded to the first group who supplies a correct answer.
12. The students will work in cooperative groups to complete inquiries as they compete in the Almanac Challenge.
13. A grade level assembly will be held as the winning teams from each class compete in the finals of the Almanac Challenge.

Closure/Extention:

The students within the winning groups will receive an Almanac that has been released from the circulation of the library media center from the previous year. All students will be encouraged to check out an Almanac on their own for reference and research purposes, as well as for entertainment. A webiography will also be supplied so students can use the list of digital Almanacs in their free time.

Student Assessment / Teacher's Reflective Evaluation of Lesson:

Through informal assessments observed throughout each learning experience, the teacher will see evidence of a successful lesson through each student's level of participation, eagerness to learn, and through accurate responses. Additional confirmation of achievement and mastery of skills will be visible through the students' proper usage of the Almanac, speed of accurate information retrieval, effective use of technology, and ability to work effectually within cooperative groups.

Differentiation and Adaptations (For Students With Learning Disabilities):

Differentiation will be fused into the lesson, as learners with varied reading levels will be placed in each group and the lesson is designed to reach different types of learning styles. Accommodations will be made as the lesson unfolds to adapt to the learners' needs and per the students' IEPs.