



Honoring the Spirit of America

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“American by Birth....American by Choice”

Subject Area:

Social Studies

Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:

US History (11th grade)

Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:

Collaboration

Technology

Summarizing

Concept/ Topic to Teach:

Immigration

Georgia Standards Addressed:

SSUSH12

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

General Goal(s):

To understand what it means to be an American (either by birth or by choice)

Specific Objectives:

1. Identify the reasons people leave their countries to live in America
2. Explain why Americans by birth should have pride in their nation
3. Understand the hardships suffered by immigrants
4. Gain a better understanding of the process of immigration
5. Understand why people came to the US and continue to immigrate
6. Use information researched to work in a cooperative group, share, and organize a visual presentation which will include artwork, music, and written summaries

Required Materials:

Internet
Art supplies
Poster board
Old newspapers
Magazines
Scissors

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Read the following paragraph titled **“Immigration....not imitation....is the greatest form of flattery!”**

“If you think imitation is flattering, consider how many people have risked their lives just to the sun rise over the American continent, watch it color the sky and spread its golden light throughout our nation....knowing that they would be there to see it the next morning. We American need realized how lucky we were to be born in this great nation. With the exception of the American Indians, the US is primarily a country of immigrants. Many refer to American as a melting pot of our word. For more than three hundred years; individuals and group have been leaving their homelands for the distant shores of American. In most cases these people have some with hopes of being the next American dream. Some are hoping to find a job, more freedom, and a safer, better quality life.”

2. In student journals/paper have students respond to the following question:

“Why do you believe that some Americans do not like to see people from other countries come to America?”

3. Have students list at least five reasons in their journals in response to this question.

4. Lead a class discussion about how most of use are immigrants in the true sense of the word. Our families all came from another country and the Statue of Liberty represents a symbol of acceptance of peoples from all countries.

5. Divide students into groups of four and allow each group to select one of the topics below and research the internet.

-Why to people want to become Americans

-Is being an American worth risking your life? Many people say yes!

-Walk in the shoes of an American immigrant.

-America: the Promise Land?

-The strength of the American Dream

-What do immigrants find distinctive about America?

-The immigrants impact on American

-The immigrants reception into America

6. Using a poster student should illustrate the main ideas of their researched information by using newspapers, magazine pictures, drawing, etc.

7. Each group should present their poster and information to the class. Make sure each group addresses the following questions;

-Why have people come to the US in the past?

-Why do people come to the US today?

-What are the benefits for immigrants and for the country when people from other lands settle here

-What complications sometimes develop for immigrants and for the country?

Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:

Someone to take notes/write

Extensions for Gifted Students:

Write a creative story short story about an immigrant's journey to American. Have students illustrate the story and make a cover with construction paper when they bring it to class.

Have students interview an immigrant or immigration officer and invite the guest to speak to the class

Possible Connections to Other Subjects:

Additional Comments: