

Lesson 1:

Title: Cahokia, what is it?

Objective: When given a vocabulary worksheet with nine new words taken from the book *Journey to Cahokia* the third grade students will demonstrate their knowledge of the nine words by completing the worksheet with 7 out of 9 correct. The words are about the journey because the little boy is a villager and a trader because he lives in a village and he traded his arrows for a lacrosse pole and small ball. They traveled on the Mississippi River to get to Cahokia. These are all words that I feel will come up again as we are learning more and more information about Cahokia.

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to learn more information about Cahokia. We will be reading the story to find out information about the city, the people that used to live there, and what landmarks are near the city

Activity: The teacher read the book *Journey to Cahokia* aloud to the group of students. After the story was read, the students were given a vocabulary worksheet that they were asked to complete on their own. When the students finished the worksheet, we went over it together to make sure that all the students had the correct answers.

Lesson 2:

Title: Can you find Cahokia?

Objective: When given the materials the third grade students will understand the importance of trade to the Native Americans by tracing the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, circling the important regions of the country where items were found that were used by the Mound Builders, and tracing the boy's journey to Cahokia.

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to learn how and why people traveled in the past.

Activity: The students were given a map and asked to label the important places on the map. The students traced the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers on the map. Then we discussed some of the items that were traded between the various groups of Mississippians. We located these items on the map and labeled those areas. Then the students and the teachers played a trade game using some real items and some pictures of the items that the Mound Builders actually traded for.

Lesson 3:

Title: How long ago did the Mississippians live in Cahokia?

Objective: After participating in the SMARTboard timeline activity, briefly acting out the events, and constructing their own timelines, the students will understand how long ago the Mississippian culture existed at Cahokia, how long it existed, and some of the factors that contributed to its rise, growth, and decline.

Purpose: To understand how long ago the Mississippian civilization thrived and when it began, when it reached its prime, and when it declined as well as the factors that may have caused these changes.

Activity: As a group we acted out some of the major events of the Mississippian people at Cahokia including what they ate how they lived and the effects these aspects of culture may have had on the people. We then associated pictures to the different using a timeline SMARTboard activity and created our own timelines.

Lesson 4:

Title: Who are the Mound Builders?

Objective: When the third grade students are given the article, the students will be able to read, comprehend, and understand the history and culture of the Mound Builders by highlighting important information, answering the questions on the worksheet, and completing the culture activity.

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to learn about the culture and history of the Mound Builders. It is important so that we can learn from these people. They are an important part of Illinois history that people rarely hear of. It is part of why the mounds were preserved and not destroyed. The area is a state park.

Activity: As a group, we read the article found on instructor web. As we were reading the students highlighted important items found in the article. At the end of the reading the students were asked to complete the worksheet and we went over the questions together. Finally, the students were asked to complete a cut and paste activity about the Mound Builders.

Lesson 5:

Title: How do we know so much about the Mississippians

Objective: By exploring the National Park Service website on archeology, watching a Newton's apple video on an archeological dig, and reading a section of the book *Cahokia Mounds* by Dr. Timothy Pauketat, the students will be able to use their knowledge about Cahokia Mounds and archeology to formulate rich questions about Cahokia Mounds and the archeological process that will be e-mailed to Dr. Pauketat.

Purpose: To know why and how archaeologists do their work, especially how they learned so much about Cahokia.

Activity: The students explored the NPS Archeology for kids website and wrote down important ideas about archaeology, what it is, how it is done, and why. We then looked at a coloring page that showed archeologists at work and identified more important ideas. We also read an excerpt from *Cahokia Mounds* by Dr. Timothy Pauketat. We then formulated archeology questions to be e-mailed to Dr. Pauketat.

Lesson 6:

Title: Let's go to Cahokia!

Objective: Students will apply what they know about Cahokia Mounds to plan a hypothetical day trip to the site. The students will choose how to get there and which sites they want to be sure to show the other travelers on the journey. As Cahokia Mounds experts, they will also decide what information they want to share about each site.

Purpose: To use all of the knowledge we have gained about Cahokia and the Mississippians to plan a pretend trip to Cahokia Mounds.

Activity: Students planned out a trip to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site including how many people were going, the mode of transportation, the route to take, what to see at the site, and what they want to be sure to tell everyone else about while we are there.