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Driven2Teach Field Study

Witch of Blackbird Pond **Historical Fiction Introduction**

Objective: The Witch of Blackbird Pond written by Elizabeth George Speare will be an introduction to historical fiction for fifth graders. It will not only introduce historical fiction, but will also provide an opportunity for students to learn about the culture of early colonial Massachusetts and Connecticut. Students will be experiencing a thematic unit, but for the purpose of this assignment

I will create a lesson on the Salem Witch Trials. Salem Witch Trial Lesson

Objective: Students will understand the causes for the witch trials (hysteria, religious beliefs, intolerance) and participate in a colonial style mock trial. Students will also create a four-sided diorama depicting four main points from the thematic unit.

Materials:

Copy of **Thematic Unit – Colonial America**. Mary Ellen Sterling. Teacher Created Resources, Westminster, California. 1995. Pgs. 32-52

Copy of **Colonial America**. Mary Kay Carson. Scholastic Inc. New York, New York. 1999. Pgs. 28, 29, 33-36.

Dr. Jeff Nokes G. I. F. T.

- ☛ Anticipation Guide
- ☛ Pyramid Activity

Four sheets of 15" x 15" paper for each student to complete a 4 sided diorama.

Websites:

National Geographic Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/history/salem-witch-trials/>

Salem Witch Museum (Salem, Massachusetts)

<http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/education/index.php>

Salem Witch Trials: The World behind the Hysteria

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/life/>

Optional Slide Shows:

Salem witch trials by Sara Bates March 2011

<http://www.slideshare.net/SaraBates/salem-witch-trials-7433169>

The Salem Witch Trial by Alyssa Kuklinski (slide show) Feb. 4, 2010

<http://www.slideshare.net/akuklinski/the-salem-witch-trials-3066752>

Overview of Thematic Unit:

Start with the Anticipation Guide:

Procedure: Pass out the pre-assessment/post- assessment sheet. (See attached)
This will give you information about what the students know. It will also give them an idea what they will be learning and what to focus on throughout the book.

Utilize the Thematic Unit as you read the book with your class or literature group. Specific chapters discuss various topics that occurred prior to the Revolutionary War. This is a great opportunity to assign mini research projects. Divide the class/literature group into pairs and have them research the topic at hand. They may present their information in a variety of ways, i.e. power point, poster board, photo story, oral presentation with visual guides, etc.

- Prior to reading give the students a quick synopsis of the story and discuss the geography of the land. Provide the students with information regarding Massachusetts and Connecticut. Hold a class discussion.
- Chapters 1-7; Assign research on the Puritans.
- Chapters 8-10; Assign research on the Quakers and Pennsylvania.
- Chapters 11- 15; Assign research on the Connecticut charter with the Native Americans. Define the meaning of Patriots and Loyalists.
- Chapters 16 -17; Assign research on why the Puritans organized militias.
- Chapters 18 -21; Read these chapters prior to sharing the information on the Salem Witch Trials.

Salem Witch Trials Lesson Plan: (4 day lesson)

Day 1: Complete a K-W-L with the class. Provide the information from the National Geographic and the Salem Museum websites. As a class, read the information from both websites and complete a Venn diagram of the information from these sites.

Day 2: Divide the class into pairs to share a computer. Direct them to go to the website: Salem Witch Trials: The World behind the Hysteria <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/salemwitchtrials/life/> Read the Life in Salem section together - make a mini poster as a class about this information. Students will now read the articles; "Religion and Witchcraft", "Economic Divisions", and "Puritan Children." Assign paragraphs for the pairs to read, take notes, and make a mini poster to share with the class. Leave these posters up in the classroom. Watch the movie "The Story" as a class. Refer back to the K-W-L chart to discuss the questions posed and see what has not been answered. The websites for the slide shows may answer some of these questions. The slide shows are an optional resource. (Please preview before showing the slides. Not all information is necessary to share.)

Day 3: Allow students to go to the website Salem Witch Trials (quiz) <http://www.salemwitchtrials.com/quiz.html> . It is a fun quiz about the information learned over the last two days. Students should be placed back in the same pairs from the day before to complete the quiz on the website.

Today, students will participate in a Colonial Trial. This is meant for an entire class, but it can be adapted to a literature group. The mock trial is located on pages 28, 29, and 33-36 in the **Colonial America** book. Although it is set in Williamsburg, Va., and the trial is about an accused hog thief, the students will still gain the knowledge about the colonial trial system.

Day 4: Culminating activities. Complete the Pyramid Activity. Ask the students to create a list of 10 important ideas that they learned over the course of the unit - the mini research projects and the Salem Witch Trials. Divide the class into pairs to refine their choices down to 5 of the most important ideas. Next, group the students in fours and ask them to refine the ideas into 2-3 of the most important. Finally, bring the class together to share the ideas and as a group decided which was the most important.

Dioramas: Students will now decide what four big idea's The Witch of Blackbird Pond was based upon. Each student will be asked to create a 4-sided diorama depicting these ideas. This can be assigned as homework. Give the students approximately a week to create these scenes and return to school to share with the class. As you give students time today to get started, conference with each individual to make sure their choices are on target.

Directions to create the 4-sided diorama: Pass out four sheets of 15" x 15" paper for each student to complete a 4 sided diorama; fold paper in half by bringing diagonal corners together; unfold and do the same for second set of corners; again unfold and cut from one corner to the center of the paper; overlap two triangles to create the diorama. Make four of these to create a four sided diorama. Make sure students understand to color the sides, and ground before gluing the bottom triangles together. Encourage the students to be creative in their creation. This can be used as a performance assessment.

Post-assessment: Pass out a sheet of paper and ask the students to number to ten. Place the questions on a document camera and have the students write their answers on the paper. Then pass out the pre-assessment, so the students can compare their answers. Take a poll to see how the answers changed.

Name _____

Date _____

Pre/ Post Assessment for The Witch of Blackbird Pond Thematic Unit

Answer the following questions with True or False.

1. The Pilgrims' believed in the Puritan religion. _____
2. Puritans bought land from England. _____
3. Quakers created militias to fight the British. _____
4. Citizens in Barbados were loyalists. _____
5. Native Americans and Puritans stayed "friends." _____
6. Quakers and Puritans had the same beliefs. _____
7. Colonial schools were public schools. _____
8. Hysteria (fear of the unknown) caused the Salem Witch Trials. _____
9. Ships were an important form of transportation. _____
10. Physical evidence was used in the witch trials. _____