

Patriot Pals

Grades 4 & 5

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Overview

Topic: Virginia patriots of the Revolutionary War period. This lesson will take students back in time to Virginia so that they might become acquainted with 5 infamous Virginia patriots.

Students will specifically research the following Virginia patriots.

George Washington
Thomas Jefferson
Patrick Henry
James Madison
George Mason

Students will work together in small groups to determine the role each patriot played in forming a new nation and prepare a PowerPoint presentation of their discoveries about the patriots.

Length of lesson

5 or 6 30 – 60 minute periods

1 Homework assignment

Video/technology hardware & software

Multimedia projector

Computer lab

PowerPoint

Websites:

All of the following websites provide answers to the assigned questions on the 5 Virginia patriots.

www.fcps.k12.va.us/OakViewES/cassella/virginia/history/people/

www.hopewell.k12.va.us/techsol/virginians.htm

<http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/01pwash.html>

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/gw1/about/washingt.htm>

<http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/timeline.html>

<http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/biography.html>

<http://www.history.org/Almanack/people/bios/biohen2.cfm>

<http://theamericanrevolution.org/ipeople/phentry.asp>

www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/henry.htm

<http://gi.grolier.com/presidents/ea/bios/04pmadi.html>

<http://admissions.gmu.edu/vtour/mason.html>

www.libertyhaven.com/thinkers/georgemason/georgemasind.html

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/B/gmason/gmasxx.htm>

Interactive quizzes can be found at these websites:

<http://www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us/sses/fourth/neff/patriotquiz.htm>

<http://www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us/sses/fourth/neff/patriotmultichoice.htm>

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to:

- ✍ Describe the contributions George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and George Mason made to the Revolutionary War and the establishment of the United States
- ✍ Develop a PowerPoint Presentation using information gathered from directed research

This lesson addresses Virginia SOLs: VS.5a, VS.5b, VS.6a, VS.6b; Technology 5.3, 5.4

Materials & Teacher Preparation

For teacher:

Bag of personal items for opening activity

For student:

Research requirement sheet - one per student

PowerPoint Design sheet - one per student

List of acceptable URLs for group research on each patriot (you may wish to bookmark URL sites or use Portaportal for easy access to student use)

Paper

Pencil

Introductory Activities

1. Put out 4-5 items that represent the same person in front of the class. Have the class look over the items and brainstorm attributes of the person they believe the items belong to and why they think these attributes represent that person. Discuss responses together. Discuss how they are beginning to develop an understanding of the person the bag represents. Explain to students how they've begun developing ideas about an unknown person. Items might include a favorite book, cross-stitching, a picture of the person's family, a toy car, etc. Questions might include:
 - How do you think these items represent the mystery person?
 - Let's make a list of what each item makes you think about the mystery person.
2. Following the discussion and charting of the characteristics, discuss the person represented. Explain how their assignment will be to review 5 specific Virginians and develop an understanding of those people from the information they find in their research. They will be expected to locate specific information as well as interesting facts about the assigned people.
3. Say: you will be broken into 5 project groups and each group will be assigned the same group of 5 Virginia Patriots to research. Once their research is completed, they will create a Power Point presentation on the 5 Patriots to share with the class.

Learning Activities:

1. Following Introductory Activity, divide class into groups of 5. Hand out the URL lists for their group's research and research requirement sheets.
2. Using the multimedia projector, go online and model acceptable ways to look for information as well as take notes. Briefly review copyright issues. Focus: correct ways to research on-line and to record information. Locate specific URL, pause while students read information. Look for answers to the assigned questions in the context of the site. Discuss the following copyright issues:

- ✍ Do not copy information directly from text.
 - ✍ Put information into your own words
 - ✍ If it is necessary to use specific words, use quotation marks and give credit to your references
3. Use one 60 minute period in the computer lab for group research. Each student in the group should independently complete a research requirement sheet on their patriot.
 4. Provide students with a blank PowerPoint script homework sheet. They should design a rough draft of their information on their patriot.
 5. Allow class time for groups to come together and pool their information on the patriots. Provide the group with another blank copy of the PowerPoint script sheet. Together, they should create a rough draft of their script.
 6. During another computer lab period, groups should work together to develop one PowerPoint presentation each on their patriot. Note: The group may bring their scripts together and individually add their information OR they may each create their PowerPoint pages independently and then copy and paste the sections together to create one presentation for the 5 patriots. (We found this to be easiest.)
 7. Groups will be provided time to present their PowerPoint Presentations to the whole class.
 8. The whole class will participate in a PowerPoint Jeopardy game as a review of important patriot information.

Assessment

Each student will individually complete the interactive Patriot Pal quiz. They will have their final scores recorded. There are 2 quizzes available on line, they are short answer or multiple choice. The quizzes are located at...

Short answer - <http://www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us/sses/fourth/neff/patriotquiz.htm>

Multiple choice - <http://www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us/sses/fourth/neff/patriotmultichoice.htm>

Community Involvement

Students may take a field trip to each or any of the following:

Monticello (Home of Thomas Jefferson)

Mount Vernon (Home of George Washington)

Montpelier (Home of James Madison)

St. John's Church (Richmond – Location of Patrick Henry's famous 'Liberty' Speech)

Outreach programs from each of the above might be scheduled for the classroom.

Extensions

Language Arts:

Editing activities for the PowerPoint presentations

A study of Jean Fritz books based on the assigned patriots