

Arkansas History Lesson Plan One

Play-Do Soto

***Teacher:**
Jenny Mayer

***Grade:**
Fifth Grade

***Subject:**
The Six Natural Regions of Arkansas and the Journey of De Soto

***Overview:**
This lesson will require hands-on learning as well as seeing and hearing to learn. Learning styles will be visual, auditory, and active learning. These children need all three to be able to really understand and remember the contents. They will be involved in a fun manner while listening to instructions and applying them.

***Objectives:**

Arkansas Social Studies Curriculum Framework:

Strand: Geography

Standard One: Physical and Spatial

G.1.5.2

G.1.5.6

G.1.5.10

*** Methods, Media, and Materials:**

- DVD of De Soto's Journey through Arkansas (This is teacher's choice, there are different version out there, so this should be based on what you find to be best suited for your students and lesson), Television, VHS/DVD player
- Pull-down Map of the United States
- Map of De Soto's Trail in Arkansas, Markers
- Worksheet on De Soto's Trail (Questions for review, based on version of video watched)
- Overhead projector screen
- Play-Dough, toothpicks, cardboard, thumbtacks, worksheet of the state of Arkansas, plastic paper, paint(six different colors), paintbrushes, cups
- Worksheet on Six Natural Regions of Arkansas (Map of Arkansas; have the students locate six natural regions plus any additional information you want to add from earlier in the week)

- Exam over the past week (Teacher will make up own test)
- Mystery Box
- Candy

***Resources:**

Donald E. Sheppard. Spanish Exploration and Conquest of Native America: Conquest States: De Soto's Arkansas Trail.

<http://www.floridahistory.com/arkansab.html>

(2008) Delta Culture Center: Delta Geography.

<http://www.deltaculturalcenter.com/geography/>

(2008) Parkin Archeological State Park

<http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parkinarcheological/>

Michael B. Dougan, Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock, Arkansas: 1994

Public Library

Utilize Method, Media, and Materials: The television will be used to play the DVD/VHS. The pull-down map of the U.S. will be used to show the location of Arkansas and the name of the region in which it is located. The Map of Arkansas will be shown on the over head projector, so the students can have a visual of De Soto's journey. A worksheet will be given as homework to be taken home and filled out. The worksheet will be teacher's choice of questions based on the version of the video watched. Play-Dough will be needed to make into the shape of Arkansas. The toothpicks will be used for the students to mark the trail of De Soto's journey. Plastic will be used to place the play-dough on for drying overnight. Paint and paintbrushes will be used to paint the six regions of Arkansas. A worksheet will be given as homework over the six regions. It will include a map of Arkansas and questions of choice on the location of the six natural regions of Arkansas. Adding questions on material covered earlier in the week is encouraged. The whole process will take five to six days; 45 minutes to an hour each day.

***Learner Participation:**

Day One-

Watch a video on the Journey of De Soto through Arkansas. We will then discuss the video and questions about his journey will be answered.

This will be active learning, since they will watch a video but then be required to ask questions about the video.

Alternative Day One-

Field trip to Parkin State Park. Many Scholars believe this park is the American Indian Village of Casqui who were visited by De Soto in 1541. Parkin State Park offers audiovisual programs, site tours, workshops, and other educational programs. It also includes a picnic area and playground.

This will be active learning; they will be not only watching a video but actually seeing one of the sites they have studied or will be studying. This would be very enjoyable to the students.

Day Two-

Look at map of the U.S. and locate Arkansas on the map, then discuss and name the region in which Arkansas is located. (e.g., Mid-West, Mid-East, Mid-South) Next, go over a map of De Soto's Trail throughout Arkansas and learn the six natural regions of Arkansas. The overhead projector will be used to show the map, while markers will be used to trace along the trail. There will be a worksheet for review over what the students have learned the past two days on De Soto's Journey; multiple choice and map questions.

This learning will be active and passive since they will be listening to the lecture plus given a worksheet for homework over the lesson.

Day Three-

Each student will get with a partner. Each partner will be given a cardboard square, play-dough, and a toothpick. They will trace the map of Arkansas on the cardboard squares. Then they will shape the play-dough in the shape of Arkansas. The toothpicks will be used to mark the trail of De Soto. The thumbtacks will be used to mark some of the main places that De Soto visited. We will then locate and discuss the six natural regions of Arkansas. The play-dough will then be put on the plastic and left to dry over night.

This learning is active because they will be doing hands on activity with the play dough and everything will be done on what they have learned from the days before.

Day Four-

Locate the six natural regions of Arkansas together. Then the students will join their partner to paint each section a different color. On the board will be the names of the region and out beside each region will be the name of a color. The students will be required to paint each region the color it is matched with. Afterwards a worksheet will be given as homework to be filled out and brought back the next day. It will be over the regions of Arkansas.

This is active learning since one again it will be a hands on activity that the students be required to do on their own by memory.

Day five-

Exam will be given over what they have learned this past week. There will be multiple choice questions over the video and other interesting facts that have been learned all week by the students. It will also include a map of the United States. A map of Arkansas with blanks on it to fill out what the regions are called. There will be matching on the map to determine the location of some of the regions or places that De Soto visited.

Possible Day five-

If I feel that the students still haven't quite grasp the concept of the locations and the regions of Arkansas, then the students will play a game of jeopardy.

Students will be divided among teams. On the board will be the topics and underneath will be the point levels. They will be given the answer and will have to respond with the correct question. The team that wins will be given an extra 5 points on their exam.

Plus, there will be a mystery where the students will get to reach in and grab one prize out of it. The prize will be a piece of candy.

***Evaluate and Revise:**

There will be a worksheet given over the video watched on De Soto's Trail, plus one on the United States. The map will be used to see if the students can locate Arkansas on the map and name its location. The worksheet over the video will be questions that can only be answered by watching the video, so I can tell how well they listen and pay attention to the details. I would also like feedback from them of how interesting the video will be for future use. This will be a verbal conversation. Hopefully this will benefit me in my evaluation plus give them the opportunity to discuss the video and see how much they not only have learned but have enjoyed. If a field trip is taken the questions will be based upon facts learned during the video and the other activities they are engaged in at the park. Then, after they have completed their play-dough assignment there will be a worksheet over the regions of Arkansas and a discussion over what they have learned the past week. Finally an exam will be given over all these areas on the last day. There will be multiple choice, short answers, and a map. If the worksheets graded and the feedback I have gained from the students doesn't make me feel as if they have met the requirements for my objectives, there will be a game played the day before the test. It will get all the students involved and yet enjoying it at the same time. It will require everyone's participation so no one will be able to slip out of learning. It will be just like the game Jeopardy. Each student will be required to take a turn. The winning team will be given 5 extra bonus points on their exam, plus a surprise from the mystery box. This should keep all the students interest in the game, while they are learning at the same time.