

Turning Points in American History

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I. Lesson Plan Summary

A. Summary-Students will be working in groups of 4 on a culminating project. They will be creating a 3-D map detailing the move of Americans westward. They must include 3 periods of time: Colonization, Indian Removal, and the acquisition of Texas/ War with Mexico. Students will also create 3 summaries on the periods of time, and a paper detailing the impact of the movement west.

B. Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of where Americans settled, and why. S.S.A.4.4.4
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of relations between the U.S. and the groups they displaced.
3. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of map skills.

C. U.S. History Time Period: Colonization to the War with Mexico.

D. Grade Level: 11th grade high school American History.

E. Materials Needed:

Textbook	Poster board
Student notes	Computers
Construction paper	glue
Markers/Crayons	Tape
Fabric	Clay

Students may require additional materials depending on student ideas/creativity.

F. Lesson time: Approximately 270 minutes or 3 block periods.

II. Lesson Procedures

A. Give student the handout titled American History 3-D map.

B. Group the students using a method of choice into groups of no more than 4.

C. Read over and explain the assignment to the students. Be sure to inform them of due dates etc.

D. Give students a copy of the Rubric. Go over and explain how they will be assessed.

E. Ask students if they have any questions.

F. Distribute materials in a manner you deem fit.

G. Monitor students as they complete the assignment.

III. Activities

A. Map

1. Students need to draw a map of the United States on their poster board in pencil.
2. They need to include the following sections in their maps:
 - a. Original Colonies
 1. Students must detail the original areas of colonization on their map.
 2. Students must include a 3-D aspect in their section of the map. (Ex: Town, Main leaders, etc.)
 3. Students must include a written summary of why the colonists settled in those areas.
 - b. Indian Removal Act
 1. Students should detail the new territory gained from the Indian Removal Acts.
 2. Students must include a 3-D aspect in this section of the map.
 3. Students must include a rendering of the Trail of Tears.
 4. Students must include a written summary of why Americans wanted to settle in the regions.
 - c. Movement West and the War with Mexico
 1. Students should detail the new territory gained from the period from the movement west to the war with Mexico.
 2. Students must include a 3-D aspect in this section of the map.
 3. Students must include new canals and railways that were created during this time period.
 4. Students must include a written summary of why Americans wanted to settle in the regions.

B. Report

1. Students must write a 3 page report on the impact of the United States moving west.
2. The paper should discuss the impact on Americans, Native Americans, and other countries.
3. Students may use the material from their textbooks, internet, class notes, etc.

IV. Assessment

- A. Students will be assessed based on the attached rubric. There are sections for the map as well as the paper.