

Title

Oral History and the Wokiksuya Memorial Ride

Grade Level

Sophomore speech class

Theme

Remembering the past through family oral history

Duration

One week

Goal

Students will deliver a piece of family oral history after learning about the history of the U.S.- Dakota War and the Wokiksuya Memorial Ride.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the history behind the Wokiksuya Memorial Ride, including the 1862 U.S.- Dakota War and the aftermath.
2. Understand and apply the history of the Dakota people and their oral history tradition.
3. Share a personal family oral history from their own background with the class.

Standards

South Dakota Common Core Standards, as found at:

http://doe.sd.gov/board/packets/documents/Sept10/CommonCore_document2.pdf

Grades 9–10 students

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
 - a. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
 - b. Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed.
 - c. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
 - d. Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

Cultural Concept

Oral histories are an important part of traditional Dakota culture.

Cultural Background

The Wokiksuya Memorial Ride, held annually since 2005, is held to recognize the 38+2 Dakotas who were hanged in the largest mass execution in U.S. history in 1862. The ride is also meant to symbolically reconnect the Dakota people back to their natural homelands. The ride is inspired by the history of the Dakota people who were forced from their natural homelands following the 1862 U.S.-Dakota War and is carried out today by those inspired by that history.

Student Activities

1. Students will begin by learning about the Wokiksuya Memorial Ride and U.S.-Dakota War by watching the film “Dakota 38.”
2. Students will then investigate Dakota oral histories regarding the event using the Minnesota Historical Society web site on the U.S.-Dakota War.
3. Students will then be assigned to discover a piece of their own family’s history by talking to a parent or other older relative, as available. This should be something they are able and willing to share with the class and that is school appropriate. It can be a significant event like their family’s immigration to the United States, or something simple like moving from one place to another, a family holiday, or other tradition. Most anything passed through the student’s family that they are willing to share through the tradition of oral history will work.
4. Students will then be given time to organize and summarize the oral history into a presentation they can deliver to their oiyate (family) of a class as the “story teller.”
5. Students will then deliver their personal oral history to the class as a 2-3 minute oral history speech for a grade.

Resources

- Movie “Dakota 38”
- Minnesota Historical Society web site
- Computer for accessing movie and/or web site as well as for pre-organizing oral presentation.

Assessment

Self-assessment and teacher assessment of oral presentation

References

Movie “Dakota 38” at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pX6FBSUyQI>
Minnesota Historical Society web site at <http://www.usdakotawar.org/>

Developer

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Additional Information

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