NIMBY: The Garbage Barge from Islip

Students learn how important it is to be involved in their community from the saga of garbage nobody wanted.

Overview

Environmentalists had tried for many years to generate interest in the landfill crisis, and no one cared. Garbage has to go somewhere. If you don’t want it in your backyard, where should it go?

Purpose

In this lesson students will learn the value of communities working together to solve a problem by charting the voyage of “the garbage barge”.

Materials

- Winter, Jonah. Here Comes the Garbage Barge! New York: Schwartz & Wade. 2010

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT ONE: THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS

Standard 1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

ELEMENT FOUR: HUMAN SYSTEMS

Standard 9. The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Arizona Geography Strand

Concept 1: The World in Spatial Terms

PO 2. Locate features in the world (e.g., continents, waterways, mountain ranges, cities) on a map using latitude and longitude.

Concept 5: Environment and Society

PO 2. Explain the effects (e.g., economic, cultural, environmental, political) of human migration on places.

Other Arizona Standards

Strand 3 Civics/Government

Concept 4: Rights, Responsibilities, and Roles of Citizenship

PO 1. Describe ways an individual can contribute to a school or community.

PO 3. Describe the importance of citizens being actively involved in the democratic process (i.e., voting, student government, involvement in political decision making, analyzing issues, petitioning public officials).

Mathematics Common Core Standards

Measurement and Data

5.MD.1. Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system (e.g., convert 5 cm to 0.05 m), and use these conversions in solving multi-step, real world problems.

Standards for Mathematical Practice

5.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

ELA Common Core Standards

Reading

Informational Text

Craft and Structure

RI.5 Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
NIMBY: The Garbage Barge from Islip

- Using North America Continent Map Worksheet and Answer Key
- Highlighters
- Atlases
- Environmental Affairs in New York State: An Historical Overview reading
- Environmental Affairs in New York State: An Historical Overview Cause and Effect Analysis and Answer Key

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Identify cities on a map.
2. Determine cause and effect when reading informational text.
3. Describe the importance of citizens being actively involved in community issues.
4. Discuss the effects of human migrations on the landscape.

Procedures

SESSION ONE

Anticipatory Set: Write the letters NIMBY on the whiteboard. Explain that this acronym stands for Not In My BackYard. Then ask what kinds of facilities would they would not want in their backyards (or next door to them)? (a busy store, a daycare center, a freeway, homeless shelter, ???) Then tell them that today they will be looking at a NIMBY issue of where to put the trash.

1. Read the book Here Comes the Garbage Barge to students. Discuss the main points of the story.
2. Pass out the Using North America Continent Map worksheet and the North America map. Have students locate on the North America map the 8 cities that are mentioned in the worksheet. Students should use atlases to locate these cities.
3. Point out the scale on the map. Discuss ways students could measure the distances (use string, finger, mark paper, ruler) and how to figure fractional parts. Have students measure (in miles) and calculate the distances between the cities. Then they will add these distances to get the total distance that the barge traveled.

SESSION TWO

4. Read the article together and discuss the information. Then re-read and have students highlight critical information from the text. You might even try highlighting causes in one color and effects in the other.
5. Complete the worksheet Cause and Effect in groups or individually.

Assessment

Mathematics:
Students will score 8 out of 10 points for mastery in math on the Using the North America Continent Map Worksheet.

Geography:
Students will score 6 out of 8 points for mastery in geography for locating the cities on the North America Continent Map.

Civics and Reading:
Students will score 5 out of 6 for mastery on the Environmental Affairs in New York State: An Historical Overview Cause and Effect Analysis worksheet.

Extensions

Learn the song “Garbage”.

Invite students to make art from garbage. Have a gallery showing.

Sources

- http://www.poemhunter.com/song/garbage/
- http://alliance.la.asu.edu/maps/N-AMER.pdf

Winter, Jonah. Here Comes the Garbage Barge! New York: Schwartz & Wade. 2010