

Orphan Trains: Journeys of Salvation and Sorrow

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Grade Level	7 and High School
Duration	1-3 class periods

National Standards

GEOGRAPHY

Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

Element 4: Human Systems

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

Element 6: The Uses of Geography

17. How to apply geography to interpret the past

AZ Standards

ELA

Reading

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7.RI.9 Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

11-12.RI.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in print in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Production and Distribution of Writing

7.W.4 and 11-12.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Arizona Social Science Standards

GEOGRAPHY

The use of geographic representations and tools helps individuals understand their world.

7.G1.1 Use and construct maps and other geographic representations to explain the spatial patterns of cultural and environmental characteristics.

HS.G1.1 Use geographic data to explain and analyze relationships between locations of place and regions.

Examining human population and movement helps individuals understand past, present, and future conditions on Earth's surface.

7.G3.4 Evaluate human population and movement may cause conflict or promote cooperation.

HS.G3.5 Evaluate the impact of social, political, and economic decisions that have caused conflict or promoted cooperation throughout time.

HISTORY

Economic, political, and religious ideas and institutions have influenced history and continue to shape the modern world.

7.H3.1 Compare the origins and spread of influential ideologies and both religious and non-religious worldviews.

7.H3.4 Explain the influence of individuals, groups, and institutions on people and events in historical and contemporary settings.

HS.H3.1 Analyze how societies, leaders, institutions, and organizations respond to societal needs and changes.

HS.H3.5 Explain how different labor systems developed and affected societies over time.

Patterns of social and political interactions have shaped people, places, and events throughout history and continue to shape the modern world.

7.H4.2 Evaluate the changing patterns of class, ethnic, racial, and gender structures and relations; consider immigration, migration, and social mobility.

Overview

It is important to think about how American society handles a social problems. Orphan Trains operated from 1854 until 1929. Charitable organizations in several major cities gathered abandoned children from the streets and orphanages and sent them to new homes in other states. This amazing social experiment brought both joy and sorrow to the thousands of children who rode the trains.

Purpose

In this lesson students will learn about Orphan Trains and some experiences of the riders. Students will also create a thematic map.

Materials

- Orphan Train Background Information (for Teachers)
- Orphan Train PowerPoint
- Computer and projection device
- Questions to Guide Your Viewing and Answer Key
- Placing Out Table/Map Table and Key
- Orphan Train “Placing Out” Map
https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/US_Placing_Out.pdf and Answer Key
https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/US_Placing_Out_KEY.pdf
- Crayons or colored pencils (yellow, blue, red, green)
- Orphan Train Assessment and Answer Key
- Venn Diagram
- Computer lab and Internet

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Create and interpret a thematic map.
2. Identify the reasons for Orphan Trains.
3. Write a compare/contrast essay.

Procedures

Prerequisite Skills: Students should have had experience using the Internet and in writing compare/contrast essays. The teacher should also become familiar with the provided Orphan Train Background Information if they are not familiar with the topic.

SESSION ONE

Prior Knowledge: Students are studying the effects of Industrialization and have already studied Westward Expansion.

1. Begin the lesson by reviewing the topic of industrialization and its effects on large cities such as New York and Philadelphia. Explain to students that they are going to view a PowerPoint about a 19th century social experiment that sent homeless children from cities on the East Coast of the United States to rural areas of the Midwest.
2. Distribute the Questions to Guide Your Viewing worksheet and preview the questions. Tell students they are going to answer these questions while watching the PowerPoint.
3. Show the Orphan Train PowerPoint. Give time for students to record their answers and to ask questions. Have students share answers to the questions. Let them know they may change or add to their answers.
4. Tell students they are to save this worksheet as they will be using it to complete an assignment on a later date.
5. Now inform students that they are going to be making a thematic map that shows the destination and number of Orphan Train riders for each state in the United States.
6. Project the Placing Out Table and distribute Map Table worksheet and the Orphan Train “Placing Out” map
https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/US_Placing_Out.pdf
7. Explain that they are going to condense the data from the Placing Out Table onto the Map Table. Then, they will color the states according to the data on the Map Table and Map Key. Have them color the Map Key as follows: 1-500 riders are yellow, 501-1000 are green, 1001-2000 are blue, and over 2000 are red. Allow time to clarify any questions. Students may work on this in class and complete it as homework.

SESSION TWO

*Prior to Class: Teacher should have looked at and selected two Orphan Train riders stories on the National Orphan Train Complex website
<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/orphan-train-rider-stories/>*

1. Explain to students that they will be going to write a compare/contrast essay on the experiences of two Orphan Train riders. They will be doing this based on reading the two selections on the National Orphan Train Complex website. Remind them how to create a Venn diagram that will be used to help the create their essays.

2. Explain that the essay will be graded for Ideas and Content and Conventions and Organization using the 6 Traits Writing Rubric.
3. Distribute the Venn Diagram. Allow them the rest of the class period to work in the computer lab or on their own devices.

SESSION THREE

1. Distribute the Orphan Train Assessment. Tell students they may use their Questions to Guide Your Viewing and Orphan Train “Placing Out” Map to answer the questions. Allow rest of class period to complete. There may also be time to complete the essay.
2. Collect the assignments (assessment, essay, and map).

Assessment

ELA and Social Science

The Compare/Contrast essay may be used for a writing grade. A score of 4 or higher on the Six Traits of Writing Rubric in the areas of Ideas and Content, Conventions, and Organization would be considered mastery.

Social Science

The Orphan Train Assessment may be used for a history grade. A score of 80% or higher would be considered mastery.

Geography

The Orphan Train “Placing Out” Map may be used for a geography grade. A score of 45 or more out of 50 states correctly colored would be considered mastery.

Extensions

Students could research the Kindertransport, a British program that took in Jewish children from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia from 1938-1939.

Sources

National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center <https://orphantraindepot.org/>

Cobblestone Magazine, Orphan Trains, April, 1998, Volume 19, Number 4

Scholastic Scope Magazine, Orphan Trains, September 27, 1979, Volume 28, Number 3

The Orphan Train Adventure series by Joan Lowery Nixon, Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers

Train To Somewhere, Eve Bunting, Clarion Books

The American Experience: The Orphan Trains, video by PBS, www.shopPBS.com