

Heroes of the Iditarod – A Living Wax Museum

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Discipline / Subject: History/Social Science, Visual and Performing Arts

Topic: History of the Iditarod and the individuals that make it great.

Grade Level: 5th grade and up

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Biographies and supporting summaries of mushers and other individuals connected to the Iditarod and its beginnings. Access to costume closets and neighbor's attics a plus.

Lesson Summary:

Students learn about an individual hero of the Iditarod and create a "was museum" display. This is an excellent culminating activity suitable to Open House Night.

Standard's Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

Alaska Content and Performance Standards

1. History A4,5,,6,9: B2 – historical/social context and interpretation
2. Arts A4,5 – creative innovation, problem solving
3. Library /Information Literacy B 1-5 – accessing a variety of informational sites

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will develop an understanding of the lives, struggles, triumphs and unique qualities of the individuals that created and perpetuate the last great race.
2. Students will problem solve in a cooperative environment to accomplish a common goal.

Method of assessment for learning

Students will be assessed on authenticity, reliability of facts and the artistic attractiveness and excitement of the display, as well as cooperative production methods.

Procedural Activities

From a select list each student selects one to research and write about emphasizing their individual qualities, the qualities they share with others and their historical context. Displays are prepared for Wax Museum Night. Students are allotted a 4'x4' area decorated with objects that exemplify their chosen individual and a specific moment in their Iditarod experience. Students then dress as the "hero." During docent led walk through tours students freeze as though they were wax sculptures in a museum. One student is chosen to be the docent and tours are limited to 5-8 minutes each to allow for "breathing breaks." If space is an issue and participants need to be limited a competition may be held.

Materials Students Need:

Appropriate clothing and props from Grandma's closet, Good Will or a neighbor; Vaseline for that waxy look and theatrical spots or chicken lights to highlight each display. Butcher paper or old sheets may be used to divide displays.

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Internet searches for biographical, historical information and context. Email interviews.

Other Information:

With some advance planning this project can go up and come down in a day. It is an ideal activity to engage students in planning and problem solving. Some students may choose to work with a partner.