

State Historic Trail

A History Lesson in the Scenic and Historic Trails of the United States

Developed by:

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Discipline / Subject:

Social Studies/History

Topic:

Historic Sites—research

Grade Level:

Intermediate and Middle School—4th to 8th grades

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

National Trails Powerpoint

Historic Trail Handout

Poster Boards

Lewis and Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail by Barbara Joosse (illustrated by Jon Van Zyle)

Lesson Summary

Students will learn about the National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails of the United States and then create their own "trail" for their own state.

Standards Addressed: Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.4

Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will research their own state and identify five sites they would include in their own historic trail.
2. Students will work on their presentations skills—tone, eye contact, volume, etc.

Assessment:

Students will present their “trails” to the class. They will be graded on content and presentations skills.

Procedural Activities

1.) Begin by going through the National Trails powerpoint. This will introduce students to the National Trails system, including the Historic Iditarod Trail.

2.) Next read the book *Lewis and Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail* so students get an idea of what life was like on the National Historic Trails, such as the Iditarod Trail.

3.) Then put students into groups of 2-3 and have them create their own trail. Students should pick 5 sites they would include in their own historic trail for their home state. If there is a big city in your state (i.e. Chicago) have students pick two from the city, and three from outside the city.

4.) Students will then make a poster board for the trail. I purchased the boards from A+ School Science Boards. They were the perfect size for this project.

[Science Fair Boards](#)

5.) Once students are done they will present to the class/parents. I invited parents and other grades in to see the projects and listen to students present. It was a wonderful morning!

Materials Students Need:

Poster Board

Historic Trail Handout

Notecards if needed for presentation

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

National Trail Powerpoint

National Trails Websites: <https://www.nps.gov/nts/>

Students should use the internet to research their state/the sites they want to include.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

1. For older grades you can expand the number of sites or information that students need to include.
2. Students can create a historic trail across the entire country/region of the country.
3. Younger grades can create a class trail for a city or state.