Iditarod Encyclopedia

Developed by: Jim Deprez - Idea adapted from a lesson by Annie Kelley McGuire

Discipline / Subject: Language Arts - Reading and Writing

Topic: Iditarod Class Book ("Encyclopedia") Creation

Grade Level: Elementary - Grades 1-5 - could be adapted for older students

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:
- www.iditarod.com
- Alphabet book such as "L is for Last Frontier" by Carol Crane - (excellent book)!
- Encyclopedia Page Template
- All materials used in your writer's workshop
- Example of an encyclopedia to show the class

Lesson Summary:
- In this lesson, the students will create a class book ("Encyclopedia") that could be used with future classes to introduce concepts of the Iditarod/mushing
- This will be done by conducting short research projects on a topic of their choice, starting with the letter they choose
- The writing process will also be practiced during this lesson

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)
Ohio 3rd Grade Standards:
- W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
  - a. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations to aid comprehension, if needed.
  - b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
  - c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
  - d. Provide a concluding statement or section.
- W.3.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.
- W.3.5 With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
- W.3.6 With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills), as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
- W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

Learning objectives:	Assessment:
1. 1. Students will conduct a short research project on one aspect of the Iditarod/mushing that starts with a certain letter of the alphabet 2. The topic chosen is up to them, as long as it starts with that letter 3. Students will use the writing process (drafting, revising, editing, publishing) for their topic 4. A class book ("Encyclopedia") will be the final product	- Final product will be evaluated for writing mechanics and content

Procedural Activities

1. Share the book "L is for Last Frontier" or similar picture/alphabet book - examine the set-up and content of the book
2. Begin by discussing what an "encyclopedia" is and what it is used for
   a. Talk about the relation to doing a "google search"
3. Explain to the class that they will be doing something similar but about the Iditarod
4. Students will pick a letter at random from a hat to determine their letter
   a. if you have fewer than 26 students, take out some of the more difficult letters
   b. if you have more than 26 students, some of your students with extra learning needs can work together as "co-authors" of a letter OR some can do a separate idea for the same letter if needed
5. Students then will brainstorm some topics to research, using background knowledge they may already possess
6. With a partner (or teacher) decide on one topic to focus
7. Students then begin researching their topic using www.iditarod.com as the main research tool
8. Next, they work to write a rough draft on their topic
9. After students have completed the rough draft, then they go through the entire writing process of revising, editing and writing a final draft
10. Revising and editing can be done with the teacher or a peer
11. Once final draft is finished, students show it to the teacher for final approval
12. After the writing is complete, students then can illustrate their topic in the picture box at the top, or on a separate piece of paper (especially if there is more writing - upper grades)
13. Once all students have completed their page, bind together into a class book

Materials Students Need:

- Encyclopedia Page Template
- Internet access for research - www.iditarod.com
- All materials used in your classroom for the writing process (pens, notebook paper, highlighters, etc...)
- Any classroom books/reading materials with relevant information

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: - Word processing - Internet for conducting research
Other Information ● This lesson is done after the students have built a lot of background knowledge about the Iditarod and mushing (including the Serum Run)
Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities ● Enrichment opportunities include completing a second research topic of their choice with a different letter to increase the scope of topics covered in the Encyclopedia ● Students with different learning needs could work with a partner to research a single topic and have co-ownership of the activity   o These students could also be given an easier letter to choose from

Notes:
See the next page for template of a page to use

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