

Act 2 Lesson Plan on Ancient Civilizations

Introduction: Mrs. Heath's 3rd grade class at D.J. Montague.

The 3rd grade Social Studies SOL objectives include covering the ancient civilizations of: China, Egypt, Mali, Rome, and Greece; therefore, we decided that our lesson would provide a timely review of this key information prior to the Social Studies SOL testing.

Objective: Students will perform a webhunt using the website, http://www.wjcc.k12.va.us/djm/Ancient_Civilizations/Homepage/index.html, and find the answers to a scavenger hunt worksheet that corresponds to a PRS posttest.

Materials:

- Website: (http://www.wjcc.k12.va.us/djm/Ancient_Civilizations/Homepage/index.html)
 - Adobe Photoshop
 - Netscape Composer
- Computers at the D.J. Montague Lab
- Fill in the blank "scavenger hunt" worksheet (see attached A)
- PRS System at D.J. Montague (multiple choice questions –see attached B)

Lesson Description:

1. Gave Pre-assessment (pretest) using a PRS test (see attached B)
2. Introduced the website and its structure using the large screen and LCD projector.
3. End of Day One
4. Beginning of Day Two – handouts distributed to students.
5. Students were given 30 minutes for navigation and scavenger hunt completion using the website.
6. Instructor(s) answered questions pertaining to web navigation and monitored students.
7. Finished scavenger hunt.
8. Regrouped for the final PRS assessment.
9. Completed the PRS posttest using knowledge acquired from the scavenger hunt.

Evaluation: We assessed students with a multiple choice test using the Personal Response System (PRS) after completion of the scavenger hunt – (see attached B).

We also looked at the scavenger hunts and graded these based on completion, factoring in student ability – students were given either check plus, check, or check minus.

Results: Students appeared to enjoy the lesson and commented that they had learned a lot from the scavenger hunt. Mrs. Heath appeared to like our activity and felt that the students were able to grow from the experience. Mr. Morse, the technology teacher, also said that he was planning on using the website and activity with the other third grade classes at the school, making me believe that he also thought our activity was useful for students preparing for the Virginia SOLs.

Scavenger Hunt:

√+	√	√-
9	7	5

PRS Posttest:

100%	1
96%	5
92%	4
88%	7
84%	0
80%	1
76%	3

Lessons learned:

The main lesson learned during this activity was to always have a backup or “plan B” available and ready to implement. Our technology lesson did not exactly go how we had planned. After weeks of preparation of our website, the day we were supposed to teach our lesson, we were not able to link our saved pages to our site. We frantically tried to get the website fixed prior to the time we were supposed to meet with the students. Unfortunately that time came and went and we were not successful. We had loaded our multiple choice test onto the PRS system, and we were able to give the students an opportunity to begin part of our lesson by taking a pretest. All of the students had already been presented with this information either in 2nd or 3rd grade, so it should have been somewhat of a review. The children were very excited to use the PRS system, and to be in the computer lab. They

seemed very talkative, but were responsive to the PRS system. Once we completed the pretest, we introduced the website to the students and discussed its structure with them using the large screen and LCD projector in the front of the classroom. At this point, we still were not able to open our website, so we decided that we would have to come back for a second follow-up lesson. The only problem with this was that the computer lab was booked for the next week – our only opportunity to finish the lesson. The only available time slot was Monday morning at 9:30am – three out of the four of us had classes that we could not miss that day. For this reason, we had to send Hanan back by herself to present the scavenger hunt/webhunt to the class and then perform the posttest. Our group was very disappointed with all of the mishaps and “bad luck” that arose during the implementation of the lesson, especially after we had worked so hard on getting the website together. Although we were not all there for the second day, we were able to get together and discuss what happened and how the lesson was finished. Even with these problems, Mrs. Heath, our cooperating teacher thought that we had done a good job with the website and she seemed happy that we were able to bounce back after all of the mishaps. The students also appeared to enjoy the activity and for the most part did well on their final assessment. I think that the best aspect of this lesson was the pre and post PRS testing. This gave students direction while hunting on the web and helped them improve their scores for the posttest. The scavenger hunt also corresponded directly to the testing –giving guidance. So I feel that if we had another opportunity to present this lesson (now that the website is working), these weaknesses would not be a hindrance to our performance. Overall, I think we had a good lesson planned, we just had some unexpected problems arise that we tried to combat to the best of our ability with the time and opportunity available.