

Lesson Plan: The Not So Open Door: A Historical Lesson Plan

This lesson was developed by Dennis D. Edmondson (Social Studies/History teacher, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham ME, 2015-16) in partnership with Maine Historical Society and a Teaching with Primary Sources grant from the Library of Congress

edited by Kathleen Neumann, Maine Historical Society

Objectives

Students will be able to use primary and secondary historical sources as well as previous historical knowledge to construct a response that will display the similarities and the differences between Immigration in Maine and the nation as a whole in the 1920's; they will be able to prepare a comparative history of major developments.

Essential Questions: *To what extent was the immigrant experience in Maine was alike or different from the national experience in the United States in the 1920's?*

Materials

computers/tablets with internet access – will need to access Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov>) and Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net)

pens/pencils

National Archives Photo Analysis Worksheet

Designed and developed by the Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408

(https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

Venn Diagram

Timeframe

Will vary depending on length of class period, class size, etc.; 2-3 days/class periods recommended.

Procedure

Historical Era: the 1920's

Part I

To initiate the lesson students will log in and register on the Maine Memory Network (mainememory.net); information on setting up a Maine Memory

Network account and logging in can be found at this link:
https://www.mainememory.net/help/help_login.shtml

An interesting way to introduce students to the network is to have them search for their hometowns and briefly discuss what they find. A student guide to searching Maine Memory Network can be found at this link:
https://www.mainememory.net/pdf_files/resources/Student_mmn.pdf

Students are then directed to locate photos of immigration in Maine in the 1920's. We had the most success in previously constructed slide shows. Each student will analyze three separate photos (National Archives Photo Analysis Worksheet: https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf).

Then working in groups the students will “consolidate” what they found as common “themes” or ideas of the photos; Step 2 of the worksheet to be the most helpful here the “inference” section. Groups the reported out to the class.

Part II

After completing Part I, students should log into the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov) to locate pictures of national (ie. the United States outside of Maine) immigration. Students may discover a variety of resources and records; the previously constructed slide shows may be among most helpful.

In this activity students will use a graphic organizer to determine the similarities and differences between immigration in Maine and the United States as a whole in the 1920's.

Assessment:

essay prompt: Using your information from The Maine Memory Network and American Memory Network, assess the validity of the following statement:

The immigrant experience in Maine was different from the national experience in the United States in the 1920's.

Use at least two pieces of evidence to support your answer.

Maine Learning Results:

Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (E1b, E2a, E2c)

Grade Level: 9-D; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (E1b , E2a, E2b)

Common Core State Standards

Grades 11-12: HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES (CCSS.ELA.RH.11-12.2)