

LESSON PLAN: PIONEER JOURNAL

Author: Maple Ridge Museum

Subject and Grade Level: Social Studies (Grade 3)

Objectives: Make history and historical activities more relevant. Understand the culturally shared aspect of written history.

Materials:

Supplies: Antiqued paper
(or any other paper),
brown paper bag, hole
punch, string/yarn

For detailed instructions:

<http://www.literacylovescompany.com/2016/05/classroom-diy-pioneer-journals.html>

Additional Notes:

POSSIBLE OPENING QUESTIONS:

Why do you think journals are important for our historical records? Why do think that people used to make their own journals? What do you think they used to make their journals out of?

PROCEDURE/STEPS:

1. Ask questions about the history of paper and/or the importance of paper and other written history.
2. Explain the method (in link above, photograph part optional)
3. Allow the children to make their journals and helping them when needed.
4. When done, move onto discussion.
5. Give information on the chemical and physical changes in paper over time in whatever way best suits the students.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW:

Discussion question ideas: Why do you think that old paper looks brown/yellow? Why is it important to preserve old papers? What purpose did journals like this serve? What do you think pioneers would have used to make their journals?

ASSESSMENT:

ENRICHMENT:

LESSON PLAN: PIONEER JOURNAL

Author: Maple Ridge Museum

Subject and Grade Level: Science/Social Studies (Grade 3)

Objectives: Make history more relevant. Understand how paper chemically changes over time.

Understand why paper ages the way that it does. Understand the shared aspect of written history

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The reason that paper ages and turns yellow is because of the oxidation (the chemical effect of oxygen) of the lignen in the paper.
- The process of oxidation is accelerated by exposure to light.
- Paper made entirely with cellulose (another fiber in trees) is pure white and is resistant to yellowing. However, this paper is often very expensive and requires quite a bit of chemical treatment in order to produce.
- The level of acidity of the paper can also affect how it ages. The more acidic (that is the further it is from having a pH of 7), the faster it will deteriorate.
- Preserving paper is a challenge faced by many conservators, archivists and librarians as the best sources of information about the past are contemporary ones (meaning sources produced by people who were writing about their own time period as it was happening around them).
- Journals have been made in a similar fashion to this although they would have historically been made with rawhide.