

Where Did Our Families Come From?

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OVERVIEW

Students will learn about their family history, when their family settled in Colorado and where their parents, grandparents and ancestors were born.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- Reading and Writing Standard 1: Students use comprehension skills such as... inferring, comparing and contrasting, ... identifying the author's purpose,....
- Reading and Writing 3: Students demonstrate correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Use a full range of strategies of comprehensive nonfiction materials.
- Know and use correct capitalization, punctuation and abbreviations.
- Describe the history of the various peoples and cultures that have lived in or migrated to the area that is now Colorado.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What kinds of people have settled in Colorado?
- Where did your family come from?
- How many different generations of your family have lived in Colorado?
- What is the cultural heritage of our class?

MATERIALS

- *Doing History/ Keeping the Past* CD-ROM disk or website Twentieth Century theme, "Family" topic photos and text (Families, Children and Schools subtopics). Other pictures with people may be used as well.

- *Where in the World Does Your Family Come From?* worksheet & spreadsheet
- wall maps of Colorado and the United States
- at least three different colors of push pins

PROCEDURE

1. Begin with an informal assessment of the students' knowledge of the variety of people who live in their community and their family history (K-W-L strategy, informal discussion, small group discussion w/ sharing, etc.).
2. CD-Rom or website use (options used depend upon number of computers and other management variables):
 - Classroom computer pod: A small group of students or an individual can research at the pod while other students are researching using other materials (literature, nonfiction books, etc.) or during Writers' Workshop while others are doing other writing activities.
 - Classroom with projection device: Students view the photos as a whole class while teacher models process of note-taking, site navigation, etc.
 - Lab setting: independent or paired research directly from the website or CD.
 - No classroom computers: print hard copies of the photos and text for students to use.
3. After viewing the CD-ROM disk or website, pose the question, "Do the four photos represent all of the peoples who now live in Colorado?" Add student feedback to the KWL chart.
4. Introduce the *Where In the World Is Your Family From?* worksheet. Assign completion of it for homework. Stress the importance of getting both the city and state of birth for each person and correct spelling and capitalization.
5. Introduce the spreadsheet and its navigation to the whole class using a projection device and yourself as an example. Be explicit about your Language Arts expectations!
6. When the worksheet is returned, have the children complete the class spreadsheet individually or as pairs as a center. Clearly model the conventions you expect!
7. Use different colors of push pins for each family member's birthplace the children will be locating on the wall map(s).
8. When all of the data has been put into the spreadsheet, discuss the results. Help the students form generalizations about class data and how it may correspond to statewide data.

EXTENSIONS

- Students can make individual family trees.
- Modify spreadsheet to include: when family settled in Colorado, more generations, languages spoken, etc.
- Class data can be represented in graphs of how many families are from different states, of different nationalities, etc. or Venn diagrams.
- Students can read the following Primary Sources found in the *Cities in Colorado Teachers' Notebook* (pg. 6): *Immigrant Families Learn English* and *A Black Family Moves to Colorado*. One-sentence summaries of the main idea could be written and graded.

ASSESSMENT

Informal - completion of worksheet, spreadsheet and map activities.

Formal Language Arts grading- correct spreadsheet for spelling, capitalization, punctuation, etc. Use percentages to assign letter grades.

Name: _____

Where in the World Does Your Family Come From?

Directions: Use this sheet to collect information about the birthplaces of yourself, your parents, grandparents, or other important people. Be sure to spell the words correctly and capitalize the names of people, cities, states, and countries.

Person	Birth City	Birth State	Birth Country
Me			