

Uniform Standards
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OVERVIEW

Through the primary sources, students look at life in the Indian Schools. One of the school requirements was wearing a uniform. Students brainstorm reasons why the Colorado Indian children were required to wear the uniforms. Then, students debate the pros and cons of wearing uniforms in school.

STANDARDS

- Language Arts Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Language Arts Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.
- Language Arts Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.
- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 3: Students know how various societies were affected by contacts and exchanges among diverse peoples.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will use technology to investigate a topic.
- Students will recognize, express, and defend points of view orally and in written form.
- Students will recognize how the Indian School affected the cultural identity of Colorado Indian students.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What do you notice about the clothes that Colorado Indian children are wearing at the school?
- What does the clothing say about the school?
- From the photographs, what other physical changes do you observe in the appearance of the Colorado Indian children?

MATERIALS

- Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians - Reservation Life: Indian Schools.
- Other local materials that the teacher has gathered as resources for this activity.
- Computer for use with the CD-ROM disk or connected to the Internet.
- Note cards.
- Pencils, pens.
- 2 podiums or stands.
- 2 tables with chairs, or just chairs.

PROCEDURE

1. Have the students view the family photographs from the Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians - Reservation Life: Indian Schools.
2. Address the Inquiry Questions about their observations.
 - What do you notice about the clothes that Colorado Indian children are wearing at the school?
 - What does the clothing say about the school?
 - From the photographs what other physical changes did you observe in the appearance of the Colorado Indian children?
 - (For comparison purposes, have class refer to the Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians -Families, Children, and Infants.
3. Continue with a discussion about the use of uniforms in society.
 - Where do you see people wearing uniforms?
 - Why might they have to wear uniforms?
 - Are there any students today who must wear a uniform to school?
4. Explain that today the class will be split into teams and will look at the idea of wearing uniforms. Some of the teams will be adopting the following view: The students at our school should wear uniforms.
5. The other teams will be taking the opposite view: Requiring students to wear uniforms at our school is a bad idea.
6. Give the students time to formulate and write down their arguments on note cards. (Provide time for students to investigate additional materials, if needed.)
7. Encourage the students to discuss and practice their debate issues with parents or older siblings.

8. While the students are formulating their debate opinions, set up the podiums and the debate team tables and chairs.
9. Culminating activity: In front of the class, have the teams formally debate the pros and the cons of adopting uniforms. (You may want to videotape.)

EXTENSIONS

- Have the class read one of the numerous fiction books about life at an Indian School.
- Present the debate to other classes/grade levels.

ASSESSMENT

- Formal - Develop rubric based on content and presentation techniques