

Lesson Plan 3

Lesson: The Invention of Writing
Length: 50 minutes
Age or Grade Level Intended: 7th

Academic Standard(s):

Soc. 7.1.3. Early Civilizations, States and Empires: 3500 B.C. /B.C.E. to 650 A.D. /C.E.
Trace steps in the development of written language, including the evolution of Sumerian cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphics and Chinese calligraphy.

Eng. 7.2.7. Draw conclusions and make reasonable statements about a text, supporting the conclusions and statements with evidence from the text.

Performance Objective(s):

The seventh grade class will type or write their conclusions about the online article and make their own comments on the text, while also answering the question “What would life be like without writing?”

They will also demonstrate understanding of the material about the invention of writing by filling out the worksheet with 90% accuracy.

Assessment:

The students will be filling out a worksheet that the teacher will provide; they can work with a partner and together search through the West Asian Literature website looking for the answers (*Bloom’s knowledge, Gardner’s interpersonal/intrapersonal*).

Their homework will be answering the question “What would life be like without writing?” expressing that they comprehend the impact writing has on our society in no less than one double space page (12 pt. font). (*Bloom’s comprehension, application/ Gardner’s existentialist*)

Advance Preparation by Teacher:

- Reserve the library computers for class
- Type up a worksheet for them to fill out in the computer lab
- Have projector set up with the YouTube video

Procedure:

Introduction/Motivation:

Have the projector showing ready to show the video on <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/westasia/literature/>. Say to the class that today they are going to explore the history of the invention of writing. Ask for a volunteer to write on the board. Have the students write on the board everything you say. Say “today we are going to the computer lab”. Then ask the volunteer to pretend that writing had never been invented (so they obviously would not know how to write) and to put the same message on the board without using any words.

Explain that before people knew how to write they would use pictures to represent what they meant. Thank the volunteer and have them go back to their seats and have the class watch the video about the invention of syllabic writing before going to the lab.

Step-by-Step:

1. Pass out the worksheet to everyone and make sure that they know that even though they can work with a partner, that everyone needs to turn in the worksheet; no papers with two names on them.
2. Explain that after the worksheet is filled out there is a second assignment; the need to write a one (double spaced, 12pt. font) page the answers the question “What would life be like without writing?” They will need to use evidence from the reading.
3. Have the class choose a partners if they want to before going to the lab.
4. Escort the class down to the computer lab.
5. Have the class open the website and read and answer the first question together so that they have an understanding of how to go about the assignment.
6. Let the rest of class be work time.
7. Walk around making sure everyone is on task and that you are available to help or answer any questions until the end of the period.

Closure:

As people finish the homework, remind them that they can get started on their essay assignment. Have the class hand in the worksheet.

Adaptations/Enrichment:

Students with learning disabilities:

working with a partner can be very beneficial and help them through the task, also by allowing them more time to fill out the worksheet they can be less stressed out about getting it all done and work at their own pace to complete the homework.

Name _____ Period _____

Website Worksheet

Read through the West Asian website: <http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/westasia/literature/> and answer all of the following questions. Click on words highlighted in blue to open their link to find information about that work or topic.

1. Who were the first two civilizations to invent a writing system?
2. What is cuneiform? What are hieroglyphs?
3. Explain what people originally wrote on and how it changed over time.
4. Name an early story that was written down, how old is it and what was it about?
5. Who was Hammurabi and what did he do?
6. When did the Chinese first begin to use writing? What did they write on before paper?
7. When was paper invented and who invented it?

