

I&M Canal Businesses (8th Grade)

This lesson plan was developed to give students a better understanding of the local and national impact of the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal. In addition, it allows for students to advance their research skills. The lesson begins with a field trip to Lincoln Landing, where students will learn about Abraham Lincoln, the I&M Canal and Lockport. This will allow students to explore local history, while also experiencing history beyond their social studies textbooks. They should examine the various medallions throughout Lincoln Landing, as they describe different aspects of business and community that were impacted by the canal. Students should leave Lincoln Landing understanding what the canal was, and what it meant for Lockport, Chicago and the state of Illinois.

Once back in the classroom, students will be given the opportunity to further understand the canal's impact. They will work in small groups to read the Canal Roadmap, which will help them come up with different businesses/ aspects of the community that came as a result or were impacted by the canal. Each group will then choose or be assigned one of these topics to conduct further research, focusing on the business then versus now. This will help them to understand the canal's impact on the community, and if that is still present today. They can present their findings in whatever means they like (poster, powerpoint, skit, etc.), but they must include a write up of some kind to demonstrate their research. This lesson gives students a deeper understanding of how their own community shapes the rest of the state, as well as allowing them the opportunity to examine history in their own way.

I&M Canal Business (8th Grade)

Materials Needed:

Teacher:	Student:
Canal Roadmap Handout	
Books, chromebooks, etc. for students to conduct research	

Rationale:

Following a field trip to Lincoln Landing, students will learn and demonstrate the significance of the I&M Canal by researching types of businesses/ aspects of the community that resulted from the new infrastructure in 1848 (field trip and 50 minute lesson/ activity).

Standards:

D2.Geo.7.6-8. Explain how changes in transportation and communication technology influence the spatial connections among human settlements and affect the diffusion of ideas and cultural practices.

D2.Eco.15.6-8. Explain the benefits and the costs of trade policies to individuals, businesses, and society.

D2.Eco.7.6-8. Analyze the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in a market economy.

Learning Objective:

Students will be able to demonstrate the significance of the I&M Canal by researching businesses/aspects of community from 1848.

Instructional Procedures:

Teacher	Students	Time
Students will attend a field trip at Lincoln Landing to learn about Abraham Lincoln, the I&M canal and Lockport.	Students listening to teacher instruction	30 minutes

<p>Teacher will discuss what the I&M Canal was and its positive impact on Lockport, Chicago and the state of Illinois.</p>	<p>Students listening to teacher instruction</p>	<p>20 minutes</p>
<p>To close the field trip, the teacher will ask students to explain how they believe the canal impacted local businesses.</p>	<p>Students sharing their thoughts</p>	<p>5 minutes</p>
<p>Once back in the classroom, ask students what they learned about infrastructure improvements from 1848 and their impact on the economy.</p>	<p>Sharing their thoughts.</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>
<p>Instruct students to work in small groups or independently (per teacher discretion). Pass out I&M Canal Roadmap handout to each group, and assign a section to each group. Read aloud and/or jigsaw groups to discuss material.</p> <p>Have students share the various businesses or opportunities that came about as a result of the I&M Canal. Write them on the board.</p>	<p>Students working in groups to read through Canal Roadmap Handout</p> <p>Students sharing their thoughts.</p>	<p>15 minutes</p>
<p>Assign or allow each group to choose one of the types of businesses or opportunities that arose as a result of the I&M Canal, whether that relates to agriculture, transportation, etc.</p> <p>Each group will research their topic, focusing on its impact then compared to now.</p>	<p>Students are listening/ answering questions about the project.</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>

Students will be given work time to work on their assignments, which will be due at a later date		15 minutes
--	--	------------

Assessment(s):

Name: Canal Business Project	Description: Students will work in small groups to research one aspect of business/community affected by the creation of the I&M Canal. They must include what the business was, when it began, and how it impacted the community. They must also describe the connection of that venture to modern day. Does it still exist, was it the predecessor to something we use today or is it extinct? They can present their assignment by video, powerpoint, etc. as well as a 3-page write up.
-------------------------------------	--

Adaptations or Accommodations needed:

Learners	Adaptations/Accommodations
Highly Proficient	Students can do further research on the modern version of the business they researched.
ELL	Students will be given vocabulary support and can receive help determining what type of business they want to research (additional context etc.).
Struggling Learners	Same as ELL

Resources:

https://teacherspayteachers.com/
