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Lesson Title:

Are We Having Fun Yet?

Subject Area:

Social Studies

Grade Level:

7-8

Lesson Summary:

The teachers at Cuba Middle School are planning a field trip to San Antonio, Texas. They have selected a group of students to participate in this field trip. The teachers would like their students to have the opportunity to be exposed to various culture groups and urban life styles. They are planning to spend a week in San Antonio. There are 30 students and 4 teachers going on this field trip. The teachers have decided to include the students in planning for the trip as part of a thematic unit. The previous lesson included Math and Language Objectives. This lesson incorporates Health and Social Studies Objectives.

Objective/Content Standard/Benchmark:

Social Studies Objectives: I. Students will develop map skills in order to determine total miles between two destinations, identify Interstates, highways, land forms, counties, etc. II. Students will have a better understanding between the similarities/differences of the cultures of Northern New Mexico and Southern Texas. New Mexico Social Studies Standards/Benchmarks: 1 3 3 1,2 6 1 10 10 11 1,2 12 1,2,3 Health Objectives: I. Students will compare nutritional facts of fast food restaurants and snacks, and beverages and graph results to determine healthiest diet while on vacation. New Mexico Health Standards/Benchmarks: 1 1,4 2 1,2,4 1 1,4 4 1,2,4 6 1,2,3,5 7 2

Approximate Time Needed:

One Week

Prerequisite Skills:

Social Studies Prerequisite Skills: Students need some map reading skills, research and writing skills. Health Prerequisite skills: Students need internet skills, research, data collecting and organizing skills, and problem-solving skills.

Materials and Resources Required:

Technology:

Computer, Internet access, Encarta Online maps and atlas, Encarta Online encyclopedia, Online tourist information, Online research data. Internet research data concerning restaurants available in the area. Nutritional data from these Internet sources.

Printed Materials:

Maps, Atlases (Britannica Atlals, World Book Atlas, etc.), Road Map of New Mexico and Texas. Nutritional charts from various fast food restaurants. Nutritional data from various snack foods and beverages.

Supplies:

none

Others:

none

Procedures:

Social Studies Procedures: 1. Students will study maps for overview of geographical location of New Mexico in relation to Texas and surrounding states. 2. Students will identify directions that must be traveled, Interstates and highways that must be taken, land forms along the way, counties crossed, and read map scales for total mileage from one city to another. 3. Students will compare/contrast languages spoken, music, religion, food, dress and other cultural aspects of San Antonio and Cuba. Health Procedures: 1. Obtain nutritional information from Wendy's, McDonald's, Taco Bell, Subway, Pizza Hut and others concerning calories per meal, grams of fat, grams of protein, vitamin content, etc. (Nutritional data can be obtained online at each site) 2. Graph nutritional information for each meal listed on the menu for each restaurant using the Microsoft Word Classroom Activities Nutritional Results chart. 3. Research snack foods and beverages (crackers, lunch meats, cheeses, chips, fruits, breads, granola bars, etc) for vitamin content, fat, calories, etc. 4. After graphing and comparing nutritional data, students will prepare a planned menu for daily diet while on vacation.

Modifications for Differentiated Instruction:

For the special needs student:

Special needs student: Students will draw a map relating U.S. and southwestern states, specifying the states of New Mexico and approximations of land forms, major highways, etc. Resource teacher will be available and students will be given extended time to complete activities.

For the gifted student:

In addition to online research, map plotting and comparing cultures, gifted students will compare/contrast plant and animal life of the Southwest.

Student Assessment:

Social Studies Student Assessment: Cooperative learning groups will draw an accurate depiction of the map of the United States including an outline of New Mexico and Texas. Within this map, an approximation of rivers, mountain ranges, bodies of water, Interstates, and highways traveled, counties crossed, etc. will be displayed. Cooperative learning groups will do an oral presentation comparing/contrasting the cultures of the Southwest (which would be composed on PowerPoint.) Health assessment: Teachers will evaluate final prepared diets for the healthiest meals, snacks, and beverages while on vacation.

Lesson Evaluation:

1. This thematic unit is an easily modified project that can be a small scale project (planning a trip to a nearby city zoo) or as a large scale project (a one week vacation to San Antonio, Texas). 2. This unit is incorporates cross-curricula objectives and therefore meets many of the State's standards and benchmarks. 3. Alternative assessment is the most appropriate means of evaluation of objectives in this unit. 4. This lesson lends itself to the varied learning styles of students. 5. It is easily modified for any age or any ability level of students. 6. Many practical, everyday life skills are taught within this lesson. 7. This unit can be adjusted to be a "high-tech" lesson or with little or no technology involved at all.

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