

Kandy Hoover (Lawton, Oklahoma)
NEH Institute "Thomas Jefferson: Personality, Character, and Public Life"
July 13-August 8, 2008 t Boston, MA & Monticello, VA
Lesson1

Thomas Jefferson: The Writer of the Declaration of Independence
PowerPoint

Introduction

Students will learn about some of the contributions that Jefferson made improve our country. The students will explore some of the people that have influenced Jefferson thought. The students will learn about the writing processes that were involved in developing the Declaration of Independence.

Prerequisite: Knowledge of the events that led up to the American Revolutionary War.

Lesson for: 8th grade United State History to 1877 class with both regular and special education students.

PASS Objectives for the Unit:

Social Studies

US History through 1877:

PASS Objective: III: Analyze and explain the sources of colonial Dissatisfaction and colonial responses that led to the American Revolution.

PASS Objective IV: Analyze and describe key events and significant individuals of the American Revolution.

Lesson objective E. Analyze the ideological war between Great Britain and her North American colonies as expressed in Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence.

Lesson objective: Understanding of the basic ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the reasons for writing the declaration of Independence.

PASS Objective IV. Recognize the significance of key Individuals including Thomas Jefferson during the American Revolution.

English Objectives:

Oklahoma Standard 1 Vocabulary- The student will expand vocabulary through word study, literature and class discussion.

Materials:

Projector

Computer

Paper and pencil for notes

Some suggested activities:

Have students compare their writing process to what Thomas Jefferson did in writing the Declaration of Independence. He gathered information. He made plans on what he would write by using his prior knowledge. Ben Franklin and John Adams did peer editing on his work. Jefferson made corrections and then his document went in front of a committee. Congress edited Jefferson writing. When the majority were in agreement on the Declaration of Independence, it was approved.

The students can write a report on some of the people that influenced Thomas Jefferson's writings.

The students can draw a picture about Thomas Jefferson and write about him.

The students can research some of the inventions or scientific research that Jefferson collected.

You can read book such as *Liberty How the Revolution War began* or one of the other book listed under Child's books to elaborate on the Powerpoint.

Students could make a book on Thomas Jefferson.

Questions to ask:

Who was Thomas Jefferson?

What did he accomplish?

Who influenced him?

Who influences you?

What was the process in making the Declaration of Independence?

What do you think might have happened if we would have lost the war?

Assessment:

The students will have a quiz on the information on the PowerPoint.

Resources:

The teacher will show the students the PowerPoint: Thomas Jefferson: The Writer of the Declaration of Independence. The PowerPoint is written for students that are beginning to take notes. It is important to read some of the material listed to better elaborate on the information provided.