



New Mexico and the World

Curriculum Resources for New Mexico Teachers



Independent Study Activity

These lessons contain (thanks to Jane Goodall's program, Roots and Shoots) three main aspects:

- 1) Care and concern for people*
- 2) Care and concern for animals*
- 3) Care and concern for the environment*

Additionally, the lesson includes research of the global issue or subject, application at the local level, and an element of community service. Each lesson plan provides a menu of possible areas of interest for the students to investigate. Likewise, the suggestions for activities should allow choice to the learners. Documentation of the student's research could be in the form of a drawing, a report, a debate, or a three-dimensional diorama. Implicit in the design of my lessons is the need for each student to do their own research, and present their learning to the class. A menu of possible activities is included in the appendix (Module 4)

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Grade Level: 5-8

Area: Language Arts; Social Studies

Strand(s): Reading and Listening for Comprehension; Geography

NM Benchmark(s): LANGUAGE ARTS

Strand: Reading and Listening for Comprehension

Content Standard I: Students will apply strategies and skills to comprehend information that is read, heard, and viewed.

Benchmark I-B: Gather and use information for research and other purposes.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Strand: Geography

Content Standard II: Students understand how physical, natural, and cultural processes influence where people live, the ways in which people live, and how societies interact with one another and their environments.

Benchmark II-A: Analyze and evaluate the characteristics and purposes of geographic tools, knowledge, skills and perspectives and apply them to explain the past, present, and future in terms of patterns, events, and issues.

Length:

of Students:

Learning Objectives: Students will research independently on an aspect of the Pantanal that interests them
Present research findings to classmates
Meet deadlines

Introduction:

Materials:

Procedures:

Background Info:

**References-
Resources:**

Student Activities: Flying Solo, Pantanal
During the next two-weeks you will conceive, develop and complete a project of your design on a topic of great interest to you based on your research into the Brazilian Pantanal.

A. The Proposal

You will need to develop an idea about what your project will be. You will then develop an initial proposal using the "Initial Proposal Sheet." Working with your family head and project advisor you will mold your proposal, as necessary, into a firm, manageable, practical project.

B. The Advisor

You will need to select an advisor for your project. Your advisor should be the teacher most able to offer advice, guidance, assistance based on the content area of your project. If the person you select does not feel qualified to help you in this area, you may be assigned a teacher who is more familiar with the field your project connects with.

C. The Project

Projects may fall into almost any imaginable area, but they must result in your learning, mastering and demonstrating new knowledge in some area. In other words you may not simply do something you already know how to do, though you could build on knowledge that you already have, taking it to new heights. Your project must lead to a "product" which could be a demonstration, a piece of artwork, a performance, a multi-media visual or..... Please try to push yourself in this area. Use your imagination to come up with a way of showing this project that is interesting, creative and different from the usual "research paper."

Try something new, maybe even something you have never done before.

You must include a written bibliography of at least 5 sources, though in practice, your bibliography will probably be much longer. You will have a sizable portion of in-school time to work on your project, but you will need to do a great deal of the "product" aspect of your project on your own time, at home or at school, after school.

D. Assessment

How will you evaluate your project? What does it require of you?

What if you work very hard, but things don't work out as planned? To address these questions you will explore in advance what criteria you will use to evaluate your work.

Assessment:

Timetable

1. Initial Proposal sheets due to teachers on _____.
2. Current bibliography will be due to your project advisor on _____.
3. PRESENTATION DAY! Final projects will be presented on _____.
4. Teacher and Student Assessments are due no later than _____.

Technology Integration:

Accommodations:

Review Questions:

Related Careers:

Career Education:

Hints and Tips:

Lesson Evaluation: