

Name Connecticut's New Sports Team Based on Historical References

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Connecticut Now and Then Teachers Institute

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GOAL

The main goal of this lesson is to integrate sports and technology into the history curriculum. The students can discover that most of their favorite sports teams have corresponding nicknames for a historical reason. Through technology, students can research some of Connecticut's animal history and create a new nickname for a fictitious sports team. A field trip to the Yale Peabody Museum can enrich student's awareness of the types of animals that live or once lived in Connecticut.

STATE STANDARDS

- Students will develop historical thinking skills, including chronological thinking and recognizing change over time; contextualizing, comprehending, and analyzing historical literature; researching historical sources; understanding the concept of historical causation; and constructing narratives and interpretation.
- Students will use historical thinking to develop an understanding of the major historical periods, issues and trends in United States history, and Connecticut and local history.
- Students will recognize the continuing importance of historical thinking and historical knowledge in their own lives and in the world in which they live.

OBJECTIVES

1. The students will research and discover if professional sports teams have nicknames based on historical references.
2. The student will learn about the types of animals that live or lived in the Connecticut territory, from the dinosaur era through today.
3. The student will choose a nickname for a fictitious Connecticut sports team, based on historical references.

NARRATIVE

1. Ask students the name of their favorite sports team and have them guess why the team decided on that particular nickname. Allow students to explore web sites and discover how particular sports teams created their names. One site to try is www.factmonster.com/spot/nameorigins1.html.
2. Find out what the students already know about the types of animals that live or once lived in Connecticut's territory. Ask the students to list and name the types of wild animals that live in Connecticut.
3. Announce to the class that each student will be creating a sports name for a fictitious team based on wild animals that live in Connecticut. After researching Connecticut's animals and visiting the Yale Peabody Museum, the students should create a sports team nickname based on what they learned.

PROCEDURE

Students should research Connecticut's wild animals and examine their history by reading information on web sites. Some web sites to try are:

The Connecticut State Department Wildlife Fact Sheets

<http://dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/learn/isfact.htm> (wildlife fact sheet) <http://dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/learn.htm> (CT wildlife) <http://teacherscholastic.com/researchtools/articlearchives/dino/digs.htm> www.bio.umass.edu/biology/conn.river/firstimpressions.html

Students can search other web sites to find more information about animals that live or lived

in Connecticut.

ACTIVITIES

1. Students should present to the class their ideas for new sports team names and explain why they chose that particular name. They should mention the animal nickname they chose and discuss some of the animal's history.

2. Students should design and create a logo that can be displayed on a banner, T-shirt, or hat.

3. Some students can focus on wildlife in a particular town (or school) and develop another team nickname for the town (school) sports team.

4. Arrange a field trip to the Peabody Museum for a tour through Connecticut's natural history.

The field trip can enrich or inspire students to research animals they may not have known existed in Connecticut. The field trip could be an introduction at the beginning of the lesson or serve as a culmination at the end of the lesson.

CLOSURE

All students should present their new sports team to the class. A chart could be made identifying all the animals living in Connecticut.