

LESSON PLAN

WEB-QUEST:

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE vs. THE BERLIN WALL

1. Objectives:

- a. The purpose of this lesson is for students to think outside of the box and understand the significance of a local and global event that has impacted their lives indirectly and directly for some students.
 - i. *(Note to the Goethe-Institut: I choose the Chicago Fire, because it changed the city of Chicago. It allowed for the city to be rebuilt and become an international hub for the Midwest and create “Modern Chicago.” Additionally, most students and their families take advantage of all the history, museums, culture, and events of Chicago. The fall of the Berlin Wall/ Reunification of Germany reunited a country and symbolizes the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, it is when Germany transitioned itself into a progressive society creating “Modern Germany,” and the Germany we know today.)*

2. Technology Component:

- a. Web-Quest.
- b. Internet.

3. Anticipatory Set:

- a. Prior to this lesson and based on school’s curriculum, students have been taught the Great Chicago Fire of 1781 and the fall of the Berlin Wall/Reunification of Germany.
- b. Students will be asked what they know about The Great Chicago Fire. (I would write their answers on the dry erase board or an overhead.)
- c. Students will be asked what do then know about the fall of the Berlin Wall/Reunification of Germany. (Again, I would write their answers on the dry erase board or an overhead.)
- d. Students will be asked, “What do you think has affected your life more: The Great Chicago Fire of 1781 or the fall of the Berlin Wall/Reunification of Germany?”
- e. The teacher would explain that both events currently affect their life on a local and global level. However, which event do you (the student) think impacts your life more?
- f. Students will be introduced to their next project.

4. Teaching/Presentation:

- a. **Input:**
 - i. Students will receive their Web-Quest handout and Two Column Notes graphic organizer. This will allow students to take notes on the Web-Quest as it is presented to the class. (I have attached a copy of the Web-Quest, it’s labeled, “webquest-the chicago fire vs the berlin wall,” and the

Two Column Notes graphic organizer, it is labeled, “*two column notes- fire and wall.*”)

- ii. Students will be introduced to the Web-Quest. (The Web-Quest introduction will take all period. This is based on a 40 minute period.)

b. Modeling:

- i. Students will receive their rubric and timeline on the “The Great Chicago Fire vs. The Berlin Wall.” This sets the expectations of the project and what needs to be done each day.

c. Checking for understanding:

- i. General questions will be asked to see if students understand the project.

5. Guided Practice/Monitoring:

- a. This is an introductory lesson, this section will not be addressed until the following day. This is the first day of a seven day lesson plan.

6. Closure:

- a. Students will understand the purpose of their project:
 - i. Which event has impacted their life more? (I want students to understand that events do not need to be local to impact their life. Global events are just as significant.)

7. Independent Practice:

- a. Due to the fact it is the introduction lesson, this section will not be addressed until the following day.

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

VS.

THE BERLIN WALL

A Web-Quest for Middle School Social Studies

INTRODUCTION: In your opinion, which event has affected your life more--The Great Chicago Fire of 1781 or the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Reunification of Germany? Both events currently affect your life and the world around you.

The Great Chicago Fire of 1781 dramatically changed the dynamics of the great city. It altered the city's planning, infrastructure, architecture, and safety codes. Furthermore, it created the city that we know today. Merchants, such as Marshall Field and George Pullman invested in the city and created jobs and new types of industry. Field introduced upscale and one stop shopping and Pullman created the first industrial city. The Fire also allowed Luis Sullivan to design and create gorgeous and tasteful architecture. His firm, Adler and Sullivan, lead American architecture and skyscraper designs.

The fall of the Berlin Wall reunited East and West Germany. In eleven months the West side was able to fully incorporate the East side. The fall of the Berlin Wall not only reunited the country, but also represented the fall of the "Iron Curtain" or the Communist Regime of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Reunification has allowed Germany to play a pivotal role in establishing the European Union and creating a solid economy that will insure Germany's and Europe's economic prominence. Germany's innovated strategies have transitioned into a progressive society that successfully encompasses politics, business, education, and culture.

TASK: You need to decide which of these events has affected your life more: The Great Chicago Fire of 1781 or the Reunification of Germany/the fall of the Berlin Wall.

PROCESS:

PART 1

1. You will research both events.
2. You will compare and contrast both events on a Two Column Notes Worksheet. (*Please see the attached file labeled, two column notes-fire and wall.*)
3. You will turn in your Two Column Notes when you turn in your extended response.
4. You will decide which event has affected you more and be able to explain why.
5. You will need at least five facts to support your decision.
6. You will write an extended response based on your decision. (The extended response format that I am using is based on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for writing in middle schools/junior highs. The extended response is a one paragraph response or answer that has about seven to nine sentences. I only used key ideas and interpretations from the ISAT rubric. I did not use the text rubric, because I accommodated it for this assignment. <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/writing.htm>)

Part 2: Class Discussion/Oral Presentation

1. After you have written your extended response in class, we will have an open discussion about your response and your classmates’ responses.
2. The class will be divided into two groups: Chicago Fire and Berlin Wall/Reunification
3. You will share your choice and be able to explain it to the class.
4. You will be able to ask questions of the “others” and answer the questions from the “others.”
5. You may defend your answers, if needed.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Day	Task
Day 1	-Introduction to your project.
Day 2	-Independently working on your research. -You should have your 5 points for the City of Chicago completed at the end of the day.
Day 3	-Independently working on your research. -You should have your 5 points for Reunification of Germany/the fall of the Berlin Wall completed at the end of the day.
Day 4	-Independently working on your research. -Today is your catch up day. -Decide what event has affected your life more.
Day 5	-Independently working on your extended response.
Day 6	-Independently working on your extended response.
Day 7	-Class discussion on what event has affected your life more.

Things to Remember for your response:

1. You will compare and contrast both events on Two Column Notes.
2. You will decide which event has affected you more and be able to explain why.
3. You will need at least five facts to support your decision.

RESOURCES/WEBSITES:

1. **General Resources on the Great Chicago Fire, 1781.**
 - a. <http://www.thechicagofire.com/>
 - b. <http://www.chicagohs.org/fire/intro/>
 - c. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1740.html>
 - d. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/chicago/maps/index.html>
 - e. <https://www.msu.edu/user/yackishj/at1150.htm>

2. **General Resources on aftermath of the Fire.**
 - a. <http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0215480/fire.htm>
 - b. <http://www.moverschicago.net/the-great-chicago-fire-of-1800s/>
 - c. <http://www.lib.niu.edu/1997/iht419734.html>

3. **General Resources on the Berlin Wall:**
 - a. <http://www.berlin-life.com/berlin/wall>
 - b. <http://www.dailysoft.com/berlinwall/>
 - c. <http://userpage.chemie.fu-berlin.de/BIW/wall.html>
 - d. <http://www.berlin-life.com/berlin/wall>

4. **General Resources on the fall and aftermath of the Berlin Wall:**
 - a. http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/9/newsid_2515000/2515869.stm
 - b. <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/history/main-content-03/1990-reunification.html>
 - c. <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2000/germany/stories/overview/>

**RUBRIC ON
“THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE vs. THE BERLIN WALL”
PROJECT**

Two Column Notes: Chicago Fire of 1781	1 includes 1 st fact	1 includes the 2 nd fact	1 includes the 3 rd fact	1 includes the 4 th fact	1 includes the 5 th fact	Total
Two Column Notes: Reunification of Germany/the fall off the Berlin Wall	1 includes 1 st fact	1 includes the 2 nd fact	1 includes the 3 rd fact	1 includes the 4 th fact	1 includes the 5 th fact	Total
Answers the question: “Which event has affected your life more?” Uses facts/support to answer the question.	2 includes 1 st fact/support	2 includes the 2 nd fact/support	2 includes the 3 rd fact/support	2 includes the 4 th fact/support	2 includes the 5 th fact/support	Total

Key Ideas (Taken from ISATS)	1 Reader demonstrates little or no understanding of the text; may be inaccurate.	2 Reader demonstrated an accurate but limited understanding of the text.	3 Reader demonstrates an accurate understanding of information in the text by focusing on some key ideas presented explicitly and implicitly.	4 Reader demonstrates an accurate understanding of important information in the text by focusing on the key ideas presented explicitly and implicitly.	Total
Interpretation (Taken from ISATS)	1 Reader makes little or no interpretation of the text.	2 Reader uses information from the text to make simplistic interpretations of the text without using significant concepts or by making only limited connections to other situations or contexts.	3 Readers use information from the text to interpret significant concepts or make connections to other situations or contexts logically (with some gaps) through analysis evaluation, inference or comparison/contrast.	4 Reader uses information from the text to interpret significant concepts or make connections to other situations or contexts logically through analysis, evaluation, inference, or comparison/contrast.	Total

Class Discussion/ Oral Presentation	0 did not share your point of view with the class	1 shared your point of view, but did not have support	2 shared your point of view and had support	Total
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Total Points: _____/30

CONCLUSION: When responding to the Web-Quest, students will analyze how local and global events impact their lives. Further questions include: What affects your life more-local or global events? How do you know which events will play a major role in your life and the world you live in? (Note to the teacher: Students may not know how to answer these questions. However, students should be given the opportunity for higher level thinking and come up with their own conclusion about which events impact their lives more. Furthermore, based on there life factors, local events may be more important than global events and vice-versa.)

Some questions to keep in mind:

1. What did you learn?
2. Did anything in this task trouble you?
3. What might you do differently given the opportunity to perform a similar task?
4. What suggestions would you share with students who are about to take on this task?

Name: _____/Period: _____

Two Column Notes

The Great Chicago Fire of 1781

The Berlin Wall/Reunification

