Unit 3: Recording Writing: From Papyrus to Blogging

Content Area: **Gifted and Talented**
Course(s): **Gifted and Talented**
Time Period: **Week 29**
Length: **11 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, students will explore how people have communicated throughout history. Writing and communication have changed dramatically from the time when writing was captured on stone tablets or papyrus to the modern day forms of texting and blogging. This unit will not only examine the materials used for writing, but also how this writing is transmitted throughout the world, including carrier pigeons and the Pony Express.

Standards

SOC.5-8.6.2.8.D.1.b	Relate the development of language and forms of writing to the expression of ideas, creation of cultural identity, and development of more complex social structures.
SOC.5-8.6.2.8.D.1.c	Explain how archaeological discoveries are used to develop and enhance understanding of life prior to written records.
SOC.5-8.6.2.8.D.2.b	Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in ancient river valley civilizations.
SOC.5-8.6.2.8.D.3.f	Determine the extent to which religions, mythologies, and other belief systems shaped the values of classical societies.
SOC.5-8.6.2.8.D.4.j	Compare the major technological innovations and cultural contributions of the civilizations of this period and justify which represent enduring legacies.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.A.5	Select and use appropriate tools and digital resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and to solve problems.

Essential Questions

- Why do people write down information?
- How have people communicated throughout history?
- How has technology changed the way people communicate?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- Early recorded writing was done first on clay tablets and later on papyrus, a form of paper made by the ancient Egyptians.
- Gutenberg invented the printing press, which allowed for mass reproduction of books.
- Messages have been transmitted by birds, human carriers, and the Pony Express before the system of mail that we use today.
- Modern technology has rapidly changed how we communicate today with the use of cell phones, texting, email, the Internet, and blogging.
- The earliest paper was created by the Chinese.
- The telegraph allowed for messages to be sent over wires before the invention of the telephone.

Students will be able to...

- Assess the benefits and problems associated with different forms of communication.
- Calculate the time it would take to send messages using different forms of communication.
- Compare different forms of communication developed around the world.
- Compose messages using different styles of communication including Morse Code, texting, and Twitter.

Assessments

- Create a timeline of communication Summative: Personal Project Using the format of their choice, students construct a timeline featuring different forms of written communication throughout history.
- Communication around the world Formative: Personal Project Assign students different areas of the world. Students research a method of communication in that area of the world at some point in history. Students present on their form of communication. From these presentations a class-wide historical world map is created.
- How do people communicate ideas? Diagnostic: Self Assessment K-W-L
- Pony Express Formative: Other visual assessments Map the routes taken on the Pony Express. Use basic math calculations to determine how long it would take to make a delivery to various destinations.
- Writing Messages Formative: Other written assessments Construct messages using different technologies throughout history including Morse Code, texting, and Twitter.

Activities

- Brainstorm ways that people communicate.
- Explore modern forms of communication and the technologies/equipment that are necessary for each (i.e. texting or blogging.)

- Research ways people communicated in writing in ancient times.
- List the benefits of the invention of the printing press.
- Make paper.
- Write and translate messages in Morse Code.
- Map the routes used by the Pony Express. Calculate the time it would take to send messages to different areas of the US.
- Create meaningful messages with only limited characters for use on Twitter.
- Debate the pros and cons of different styles of communication.
- Create a timeline of communication methods.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Assess students' individual needs and interests using KWL. Target instruction to meet those needs.
- Locate research sources appropriate to students' individual abilities.
- Provide graphic organizers for research.
- Use flexible grouping for activities.
- Allow for varying methods of presenting information.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

- Coordinate with the technology teacher or media specialist to practice different forms of communication.
- Work with the social studies teachers to find age-appropriate resources on different cultures.

Resources

- How to make paper: http://www.kidsgardening.org/classroom-projects/making-paper
- History for kids information on different types of paper throughout history: http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/egypt/literature/papyrus.htm
- History of printing: http://inventors.about.com/od/pstartinventions/a/printing.htm

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