

CONNECTIONS—LOOKING AT KEY EVENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND ME

Learning Objectives: The students will:

1. Get to know classmates.
2. Analyze a key event in American history.

TEKS: Appropriate 11th grade TEKS objectives covering American history from the beginning to 1877

Materials Needed: access to the Internet;
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/index.php> (on Library of Congress website)

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by explaining that students will be introducing themselves to the class by comparing their birthday to an important event in American history.
2. Have the students access the following:
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/index.php>.
3. There they will find a choice called, "Pick a Date to Visit," which allows them to plug in their birthdays. Once they hit the "go" button, they will be directed to an event in history that occurred on their birthdays.
4. Next they should access the era of history (on the sidebar of the website) in which their event occurred or person lived. Read about the era and draw a conclusion as to how the event or person relates to the era in which it occurred.
5. Allow them time to read about the event and then prepare the following to share with the class:
 - a. Three key facts about the event/person
 - b. Two statements explaining the relationship and significance of this event/person in this era of American history
 - c. One way this event/person has impacted his or her life or American life in general.
6. Once they have completed the above, begin the introductions. Allow each student to introduce him/herself and his/her birthday. Then they should share their statements (facts, significance, and impact) they developed from their research.
7. After all the introductions have been made, ask the following debriefing questions:
 - a. What are the events that you want to know more about?
 - b. Were there any events that were related to the time of year in which they occurred? If so, what were they and how were they related?
 - c. In which era (listed on the sidebar of the website) are you most interested? Why?
 - Gilded Age
 - Progressive Era
 - Great War and Jazz Age
 - Depression and World War II
 - Modern Era