

IT'S ALWAYS PRESIDENTS' DAY AT MOUNT RUSHMORE

Learning Objective(s): Students will

1. Explain the reason for Presidents' Day.
2. Identify the contributions of past presidents such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt.
3. Apply their critical thinking skills by solving puzzles and obtaining information from maps and books, as well as verbal sources.

TEKS: K.1A, K.2A, K.15A,B, 1.1A, 1.2A, 1.5, 1.17A,B, 2.1A, 2.4A, 2.5A, 2.17A,B (New TEKS: K.1A, K.2A, K.14A,B, 1.1A, 1.2A, 1.5, 1.17A,B, 2.1, 2.4A, 2.5A, 2.18A,B)

Materials: *Presidents' Day* by Anne Rockwell, sets of the attached "Mount Rushmore Puzzles," cut into separate pieces, copies of the attached "Map of the United States of America," copies of the attached "Map of South Dakota," copies of the "What is the Question?" attachment

Vocabulary: Declaration of Independence, election, granite, holiday, memorial, Mount Rushmore, paper mache, Presidents' Day, South Dakota, vote

Teaching Strategy:

1. Begin the lesson by dividing students into pairs or trios. Give each group a "Mount Rushmore Puzzle," but don't tell the class what is pictured on the puzzle. Challenge students to put the puzzle together.
2. After the puzzle has been assembled, ask students if they can identify the national memorial that is pictured on the puzzle (Mount Rushmore) or any of the faces carved on the mountain. Give each group a copy of the attached "Map of the United States of America." Have students identify the locations of Texas and South Dakota using basic geographical terminology.
3. Give groups copies of the attached "Map of South Dakota." Have students locate Mount Rushmore and lead a discussion concerning the symbols used on the map and the landforms in South Dakota.
4. Explain that Mount Rushmore is made out of granite and that the faces of four of our past presidents are carved into the side of the

mountain. It took 14 years to complete the project. The four presidents depicted are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

5. Remind students that Presidents' Day is a holiday that is celebrated on the third Monday of February every year. Explain that one way to celebrate President's Day is to put on a play. Read the book *Presidents' Day* by Annie Rockwell to the class.
6. Discuss why it is important to celebrate the lives of presidents such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
7. Give each group a copy of the "What is the Question?" attachment. Direct students to create a question to go with each answer. Tell students that any question is acceptable as long as it is related to information about Presidents' Day or the presidents carved on Mount Rushmore.

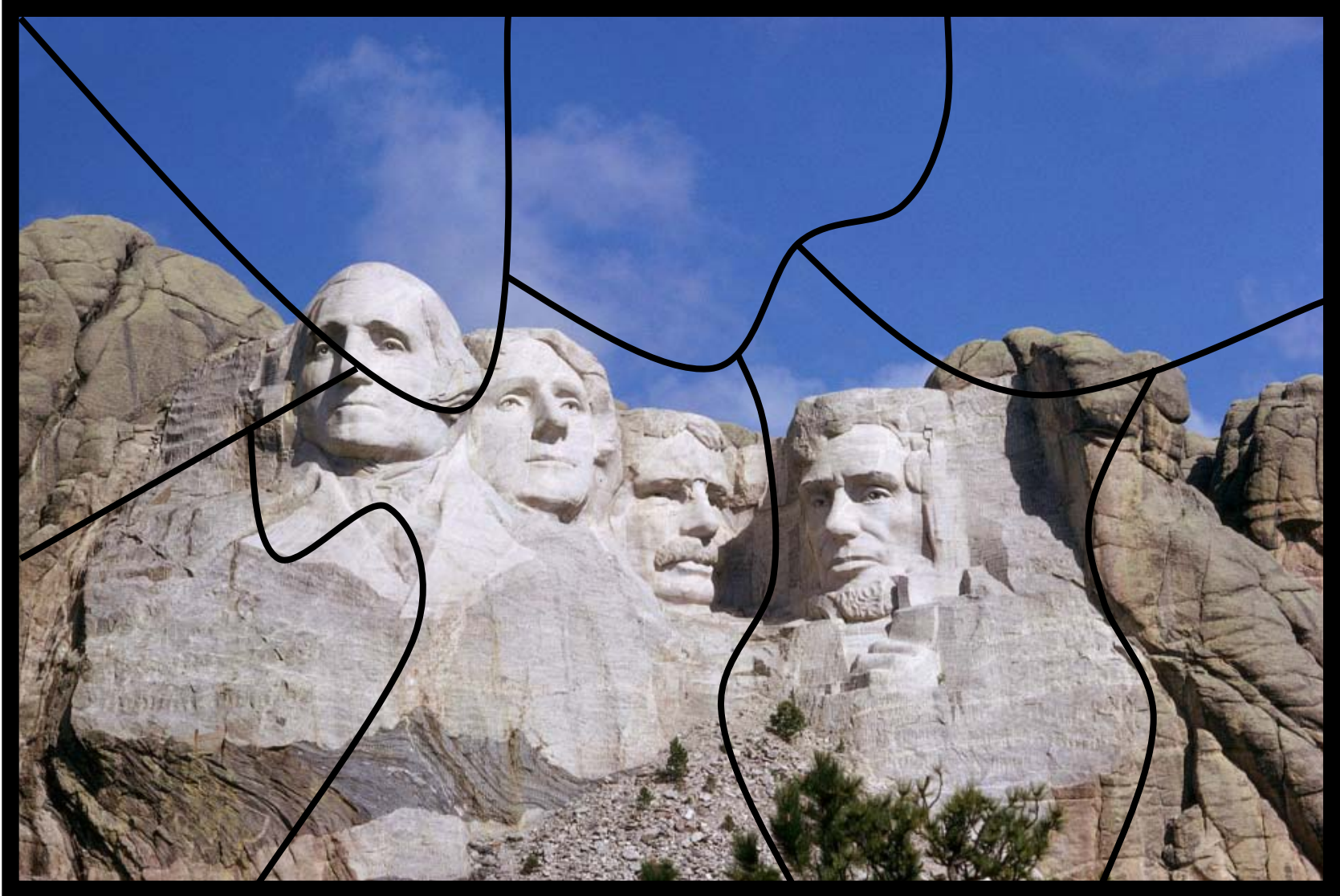
To familiarize students with the process, write the words "Mount Rushmore" on the board or chart paper. Have students brainstorm all of the possible questions that would produce the answer "Mount Rushmore." (Example: Where are the faces of 4 presidents carved? What memorial is located in South Dakota? What took 14 years to be created?)

Option: Instead of working in groups, students may brainstorm possible questions for all of the answers as a whole group activity.

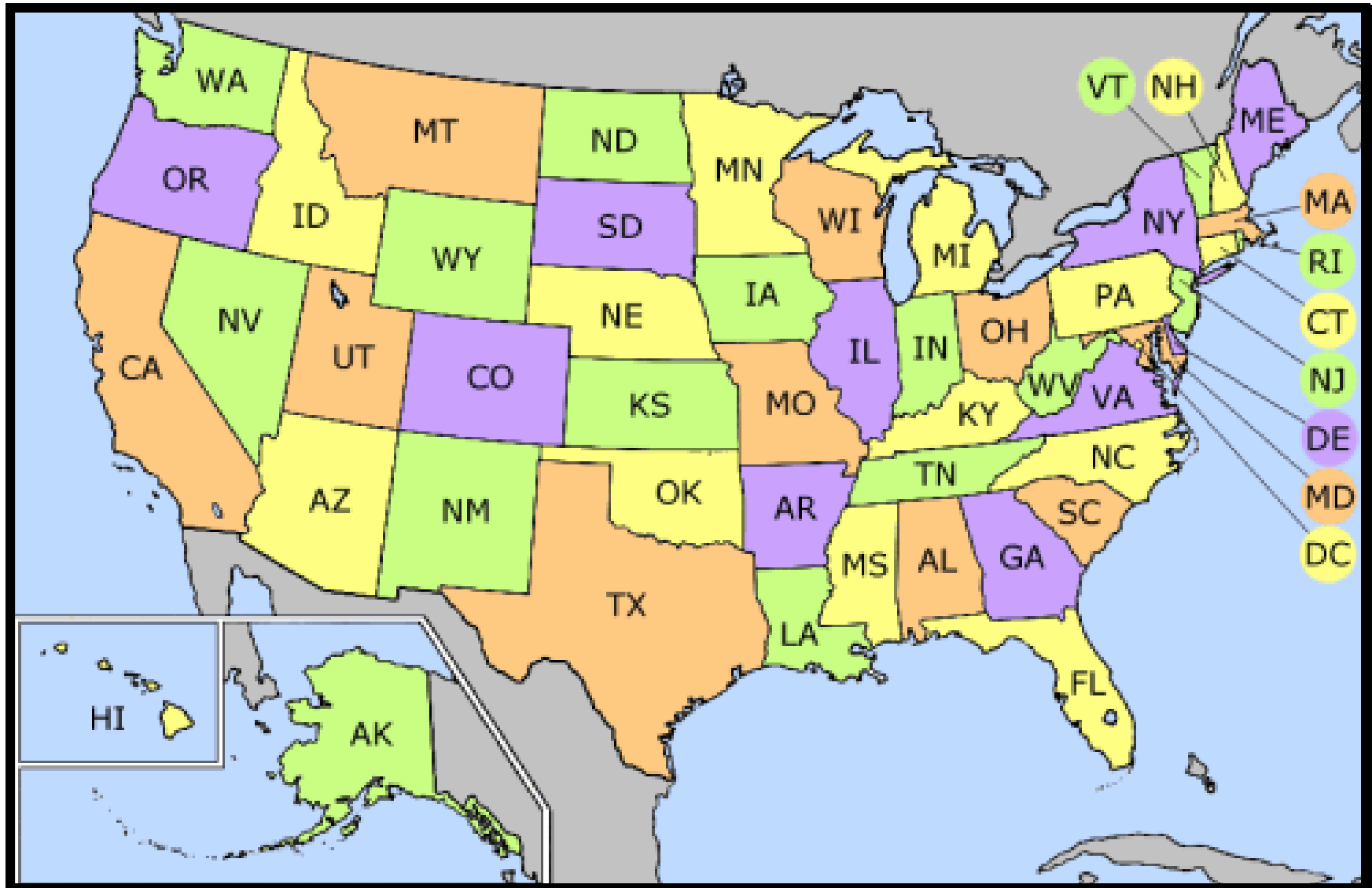
8. Debrief the activity by having students share their questions with the class.

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students conduct research on George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson or Theodore Roosevelt using internet resources or Rookie Biographies. They should gather 5-10 interesting facts about the president, and then create a flip book listing and/or illustrating the facts.

MOUNT RUSHMORE PUZZLE



MAP OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



MAP OF SOUTH DAKOTA



What is the Question?



Question

Answer

Presidents' Day

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

Declaration of Independence

Theodore Roosevelt