

Note: To see this lesson in action, refer to the Literacy & Learning, Social Studies Grade 5 video lesson.

Lesson Plan for a 5th Grade Social Studies Class

Jigsaw Strategy

Topic: The Civil War

Objectives: The student will...(to be completed by the classroom teacher)

Set Induction: The teacher asks the students, "How would you like to be the teacher for the next few weeks?"

Activities

1. The teacher explains that the class will be studying the Civil War for the next several weeks and that the students will take on the role of teacher for the information covered in this section of the textbook.
2. In large group, the class reviews the chapter(s) that will be covered, taking note of the bold headings which will later become major topics to be researched in the *Jigsaw* project.
3. *Jigsaw* groups are assigned, and topics are assigned to the groups.
4. Students go into research groups to complete the research.
5. Presentations are completed and practiced.
6. Students return to original *Jigsaw* groups to teach the topics that were researched—other group members take notes to be used for study.

Closure: Have students review the *Jigsaw* strategy process in a journal writing and then in large group.

Evaluation suggestions: Because this project will take several days/weeks to complete, it is important that the teacher monitor the process as each step develops. Observation of the activities can include anecdotal records as well as group notations to share with the students. All students are tested on the information covered in the unit.

Resources and Materials: Textbooks, young adult literature, reference information including technological sources, computer software programs for presentations, and others depending upon the nature of the directions for the project.

Other Applications: The *Jigsaw* strategy is appropriate in social studies classes as well as literature and science classes. Middle and secondary students are best suited to the process. The strategy works best for situations where concepts rather than rote memorization of facts are the goal of instruction.

The *Jigsaw* strategy helps students learn new material using a cooperative/team approach. It gives students an opportunity to share their learning, hear what their peers have to share on a topic, and teach and be taught by others. These are valuable socialization skills for students to experience inside and outside the classroom.

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