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The following lessons were created by **Brian Huebner**, a teacher participating in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

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Pictographs (Rock Art) of Kickapoo Valley

Grade Level

10th

Subjects

World History

Objectives

Compare students' understanding of modern deer hunt and Wisconsin DNR conservation policy with the symbolism portrayed in the rock art found in Tainter Cave in Crawford County while incorporating interpretations of the historical record of the Late Woodland Peoples.

Standards

Based On Wisconsin Social Studies Performance Standards in History and Behavior Science....

B.12.7 Identify major works of art and literature produced in the United States and elsewhere in the world and explain how they reflect the era in which they were created

B.12.9 Select significant changes caused by technology, industrialization, urbanization, and population growth, and analyze the effects of these changes in the United States and the world

B.12.12 Analyze the history, culture, tribal sovereignty, and current status of the American Indian tribes and bands in Wisconsin

E.12.5 Describe the ways cultural and social groups are defined and how they have changed over time

E.12.13 Compare the ways in which a universal theme is expressed artistically in three different world cultures

Duration

Three class periods of 43 minutes

Materials/Supplies

Transparency or copy for each student of pictographs from Kickapoo Valley and specifically Tainter Cave

Access to website: <http://www.lascaux.culture.fr/index.php?fichier=00.xml>

Copy of Cave of Forgotten Dreams or YouTube access

PowerPoint and lecture notes

Vocabulary

-Petroglyphs- a design chiseled or chipped out of a rock surface

-Pictograph- a design painted on a rock surface

-rock art- a general term for the pecking, incising, or painting of designs onto a rock surface.

-rock art panel- a group of pictograph and/or petroglyph figures

-symbol- a thing which represents something else.

-DNR- abbreviation for Department of Natural Resources

-“Earn A Buck Policy”- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources policy which attempts to lower the total deer herd by requiring hunters in particular areas to harvest a doe or antlerless deer before they can harvest a buck.

Background

Indian people throughout North America created rock art in prehistoric times. Its meaning is mysterious and at times controversial. Some people think that rock art is a type of storytelling. Others believe it depicts religious or spiritual beliefs, while still others regard it as solely an artistic expression.

Whatever the artist's intent this art expresses the values, attitudes, beliefs, and desires of the society.

As mysterious as the art left behind the disappearance of the Late Woodland people in 950 AD from the landscape of the greater La Crosse area (including the Kickapoo Watershed). Understanding who these people were and how they lived may give us a hint as to what happened to these people.

If we marry the two thoughts we do in fact get an amazing answer to really both the intent of the art and solving the disappearance of the Late Woodland people circa 950 AD. We also gain much from considering our own local traditional deer hunts and the intent of recent policies concerning the La Crosse Area ten day gun deer season.

Setting the Stage

Ask students to brainstorm in small groups the role of modern hunting in southwest Wisconsin. Furthermore, students should list the positive and negative consequences of our modern hunt and discuss whom should have the greatest say in using this resource.

Procedure

Day 1

1. Project the "Tainter Cave" transparency.
Explain that this rock art panel was created by the prehistoric people of Greater La Crosse area.

2. Use the following questions to analyze the rock art panel:
 - a. What words might you use to describe the symbols on this page?
 - b. Why do you think people created these designs?
 - c. If there is a message in these designs, what do you think it is?

Student answers should be saved and redistributed on day 3

3. In what ways might rock art be important to archaeologists' study of ancient people?

4. Define symbolism

5. Explanation of Hmong story cloth. The Hmong are a mountainous people of Vietnam who assisted the CIA during the Vietnam War. In the aftermath of the war they were driven out of their homes by communists and they needed to seek refuge in Thailand. This story is reflected in their beautiful art work. It is also wonderful example of symbolism.

6. On the conclusion of this day, students will be using symbols to make artwork which resembles petroglyphs. They need to attempt to show movement and can not use any words.

Day 2

1. Students will share their movement petroglyphs, in small groups and they will discuss challenges of sharing an idea through symbols Student work will then be placed on a classroom rock art panel.

2. Introduction to historical head activity--as we watch video Cave of Forgotten Dreams students will need to draw a picture of five thoughts an early artist would have had as he was making these images. What were his thoughts, fears, and dreams?

3. Watch: Cave of Forgotten Dreams

4. On the conclusion of this day, students will be asked to view on their own computer:

<http://www.lascaux.culture.fr/index.php?fichier=00.xml> and bring to class two questions they would ask the artist of these paintings.

Day 3

1. Discuss student questions concerning the paintings in the Lascaux cave.

2. Lecture: Early Peoples of Southwest Wisconsin to Late Woodland

Period (from Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, Thursday July 19th).

3. Discuss archaeological record discovered concerning Late Woodland peoples

4. Distribute students answers from day 1 concerning Tainter Cave and consider after learning about the archaeological record of early peoples of Southwest Wisconsin, if their opinions have changed

a. What words might you use to describe the symbols on this page?

b. Why do you think people created these designs?

c. If there is a message in these designs, what do you think it is?

5. At this point, if students have not already made these important interpretations instructor will need to point out...

Most significant fact, the art represents a spring hunt

All deer are antlerless

Pregnant does (smaller antlerless deer inside another antlerless deer and deer give birth in spring

This of course is a sign of deep distress and desperation because harvesting pregnant does will cause the overall population to be reduced and depleted over a very short period of time.

Significant group effort (deer drive)

Deer are surrounded by natives

Use of bow and arrows

6. Discuss students' own experience concerning modern deer hunt and particular DNR deer management policies.

Closure

Consider you are a Late Woodland period Native American around 950 AD. Develop policies (these may be laws or rules) which help them manage their deer herd while obtaining enough food to survive? Furthermore, you also need to consider still feeding members of your family, so not hunting deer is out of the question.

Evaluation

Students' interpretation to the writing prompt at the close of the third day of class and a formal examination at the end of unit.

References

Intrigue of the Past Rock Art Lesson 1 and 2 pages 95-101

Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

Western Wisconsin Rock Art Sites

www.uwlax.edu/mvac/SpecificSites/RockArt.htm#