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

First Contact

Lesson Description

In this lesson students, working in bands of four (4) will construct their own culture using the components culture applicable to the Woodland Period/Hopewell, in and around Kansas City. Secondly, the bands will interact with one another. The initial stage will be to decide how they will handle the first meeting with another band/culture. Then they will conduct a trading meeting with this other band/culture.

Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the dominant components/characteristics of the Woodland Period/Hopewell in Ancient (pre-history) America; with emphasis on the characteristics extent around the Kansas City area.
- Analyze cultural interaction between Woodland Period/Hopewell groups or bands during the pre-history period of America.
- Analyze the viability and diversity of Native American cultures (as represented by the Woodland Period/Hopewell groups) before European contact.

Standards

GLE – 4; SS 3 1.9

CLE – 3aF; SS3 1.9 & 1.6

CLE – 3aA; SS3 1.9

Time Required

60 to 90 minutes

Materials

Map of the Kansas City Hopewell/Woodland Period area [Source: Museum of Anthropology – University of Kansas]

Handout #1 – Design a Culture & Trade Items [See attached]

Handout #2 – Cultures Meet [See attached]

Process

Prior to Lesson: Present information on the Woodland Period during the pre-contact period of history in America. Focus on the Kansas City Hopewell natives and bands. Emphasis on the six (6) components of cultures: Environment, Technology, Subsistence

Pattern, Settlement, Social Organizations, and Ideology.
On Lesson Day: Pass out Handout #1.
Place students in bands of Four (4).

Step 1:

Each band will create its own Woodland culture by selecting the appropriate number of choices under each cultural component on the worksheet.

Upon completion of Step 1: teacher may ask groups to share their choices, *or* ask groups to write out their justification/reasoning for their choices.

Step 2:

Stage 1 – Randomly pick two (2) bands to ‘meet’. Each band will discuss, inside their band, and complete their responses to Handout #2 – Meeting #1.

Stage 2 – The bands will conduct the 1st Meeting. Students should be encouraged to follow the protocol decided on by their bands. Upon conclusion of the meeting representatives should return to their band and report the meeting events.

Stage 3 – Bands/cultures will conduct their Trading Meeting. Complete and accurate notes about each trade must be written down.

Handout #1

Woodland Period – Hopewell

[1700 to 800 BP]

Band Name: _____

Band Members: _____

Environment: (Choose One (1))

Short Grass

Mid- Grass

Long Grass

Prairie Savannah

Technology: (Choose up to Four (4))

Clothing

Hide Working

Meat Production

Child Rearing

Gathering

Food Processing

Tool Making

Fishing

Pottery

Medicine

Subsistence Pattern: (Choose Two (2))

Gathering

Large Fauna/Hunting

Small Fauna/Hunting

Fishing

Horticulture

Settlement Type: (Choose One (1))

Seasonal round

Main camp with sub camps

Follow Food Source

Permanent Settlement

Trade Items:

Lithic Raw Materials: (25 pieces total)

[] Hard

[] Medium

[] Soft

Hides: (Five (5) total – one (1) hide is decorated)

[] Bison

[] Deer

[] Raccoon

Shells: (Ten (10))

[] Mussel

[] Clam

Dyes: (Five (5) total)

[] Blue

[] Ochre

[] Red

[] Brown

Turkey Feathers: (Twenty-Five (25))

[] Turkey Feathers

Medicine: (Five (5))

[] Plant Root

[] Tree Bark

[] Ground Deer Horn

Handout #2

Woodland Period – Hopewell

[1700 to 800 BP]

Band Name: _____

Band Members: _____

Meeting #1

Who will you send to meet the other culture? _____

Position/Title within your Band: _____

Why this person? _____

The instructions to them from your band: _____

Greeting to the other Band: _____

Names/Titles you will use to address the other band member(s): _____

Body Language (how will you sit/stand): _____

Dress: _____

Gifts (if any): _____

Meeting #2

Who will you send to meet the other culture? _____

Trading: Keep a complete and accurate list of any and all trades.
