

Native Americans and Sports in Pennsylvania

by Aaron Hackman

Standards

- NCSS.1.1.d ...encourage learners to compare and analyze societal patterns for preserving and transmitting culture while adapting to environmental and social change;
- NCSS.1.1.e ...ask learners to give examples and describe the importance of cultural unity and diversity within and across groups;
- NCSS.1.4.a ...assist learners in articulating personal connections to time, place, and social/cultural systems;
- NCSS.1.4.g ...have learners compare and evaluate the impact of stereotyping, conformity, acts of altruism, and other behaviors on individuals and groups;
- PA.SS.H.8.1.6.A ___Understand chronological thinking and distinguish between past, present and future time; Calendar time; Time lines; People and events in time; Patterns of continuity and change; Sequential order; Context for events
- PA.SS.H.8.1.9.A ___Analyze chronological thinking; Difference between past, present and future; Sequential order of historical narrative; Data presented in time lines; Continuity and change; Context for events

Resources

Background of Lacrosse

This website gives the background of Lacrosse, a game that was first played by Native Americans in the eastern part of the country and is now played in many high schools in Pennsylvania.

Lenape Football-Pahsaheman

This particular game known as Pahsaheman, played by the Lenape tribes bears a striking resemblance to modern day football.

Sports in Colonial America

This website examines a few of the sports that were played by colonial Americans right before and immediately following the American Revolution. Some of the games that were played by the Colonists had origins in England. Still others were influenced by native sports.

Objectives

During this particular lesson, the students will be learning:

- a: Background information regarding sports history in Pennsylvania back to Native American times, particularly the Lenape tribes that inhabited the eastern part of the state.
- b: examine the sport of Lacrosse, which had its origins in Native sports and has grown to become a very popular sport in Pennsylvania.
- c: The role that Pahsaheman (Lenape Football) played in Lenape culture
- d: Hunting as recreation and its impact on the native lifestyle

The nature of this material is to be in lecture format with students taking notes so that they will have an understanding of the earliest beginnings of sports history, particularly in Pennsylvania and how it might relate to the sports that are currently being played. At the conclusion of this lesson, the students will have learned a brief history of the sports that the tribes that inhabited different areas of Pennsylvania played and the significance of those sports in the Native culture.

Rationales

This lesson is appropriate to the greater unit as it lays the framework for the understanding of Native American culture and its relation to early colonial society. It is essential for students to understand background historical information of native culture in Pennsylvania before learning the impact of early colonists.

Procedures

This particular lesson will be in lecture format and will take touch on the bold-faced topics in Chapter One as a spring board and then also incorporate the Lacrosse website as a resource.

I. Chapter 1: "Riotous Sports, Plays, and Games" Sports in Pennsylvania Prior to 1860

A. Native Americans and Sports

1. Lenni Lenape tribe in Eastern Pennsylvania

a. Pahsaheman

-Rules

-Similarities to modern Football

-Equipment used

2. Purpose of sports in native culture and examples of sports played by

Native Americans

a. Pahsaheman

b. Lacrosse

3. Hunting

4. Relation to arrival of colonists/ games played by the colonists

a. Fox Hunting

b. Horseback riding

c. Cricket

The purpose of this lesson will be to lay a framework and background for the study of how sports has impacted almost every aspect of Pennsylvania society from before the American Revolution to the present day.

Materials

The materials that will be needed for this lesson are as follows:

1. Sports in Pennsylvania textbook (Guenther, *Sports in Pennsylvania*)
2. Computer and projector with access to the internet for web resource
3. Chalk/Whiteboard to be able to write out outline notes for students

Evaluation/Assessments

As a way to evaluate whether the students have learned the material that has been taught, the instructor will assign a homework assignment that the students will choose one tribe native to Pennsylvania (or indigenous to Pennsylvania) and work to find a couple interesting sports-related facts about them. The students should also find out if

they played any sports. This assignment will reinforce what has been taught in class and will aid the students in preparing for an exam.

Assignment

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Choose one Native American Tribe from Pennsylvania and research a couple of interesting facts related to sports.