Underground Railroad Quilt PBL

(A 4th-Grade Social Studies Project-Based Learning Experience)

Provocation: bowtie quilt I made at age 7 and quilt made in Ghana; book - Unspoken by Henry Cole; website - <http://pathways.thinkport.org/flash_home.cfm>

Common Core and Essential Standards:

Social Studies - (4.C.1.2) EXPLAIN how the artistic expression of various groups represents the cultural heritage of NC; (4.H.1.3) EXPLAIN how people, events, and developments brought about changes in communities; Math - (3.G.1 reinforcement) UNDERSTAND that shapes in different categories may share ATTRIBUTES;

L.Arts (4.RIT 3) EXPLAIN events, procedures, ideas or concepts in a HISTORICAL text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

Science (4.L.2.1) CLASSIFY substances as food or non-food items based on their ability to provide energy and materials for **survival**, growth, and

repair of the body.

Introduce PBL:

Your team has traveled back in time during slavery in the United States. Your team discovers that the slave owners seem to be catching on to some of the codes created in the quilt blocks, which are guiding slaves to freedom. Your team brought a laptop and quickly began designing new quilt blocks to confuse the owners while still being codes slaves can use to find what they need on the Underground Railroad. While there, your team meets one of many abolitionists who were helping slaves to freedom. Your team creates a special thank you card to this abolitionist to show how much his/her dangerous efforts are appreciated. Additionally, your team witnesses the passing of a law regarding slavery. Because you are from the future and can return home without fear of any attack or repercussion, your team writes a letter to the President of the United States who was enforcing that law. The letter is written as a formal business letter explaining your team’s point of view regarding the passing of this law. (Your team will choose either The Fugitive Slave Act – Mallard Fillmore or The 13th Amendment to the Constitution – Abraham Lincoln). As an added bonus, one of the slaves you met on the Underground Railroad shows you how to make a bowtie block which was a code to slaves that the house the bowtie quilt was hung outside of is a place where you can get respectable clothes a free person would wear. Each member of the team can decide for themselves if they would like to act on what they were taught and create a bowtie quilt block when you return home.

Brainstorm needs that slaves would need to survive on their way North

Develop rubric together

Underground Railroad Rubric

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item Evaluated | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Choose 5 needs for underground railroad survivor | Chose 5 needs | Chose 4 needs | Chose 3 and below needs |
| Create 5 Quilt blocks in PPT | Make 5 or more quilt blocks | Make 4 quilt blocks | Make 3 or less quilt blocks |
| Meaning of block | Have notes on each quilt block slide as to the meaning of the block | Have at least 4 quilt block slides with notes on meaning | Have 3 or less quilt block slides with notes on meaning |
| Slavery-related laws | Chose one of the laws and researched what it means regarding slavery (backed it up with a reference)  (Fugitive Slave Law; 13th Amendment) | Chose a law regarding slavery and did a little research but unclear as to its relationship to slavery (backed it up with a reference) | Chose a law with no research |
| Letter to President | Business Letter to the President responsible outlining team’s point of view on the law (correct format) | Letter to the President responsible outlining team’s point of view on the law (not necessarily in correct format) | Letter to President but with little detail and not in correct format |
| Abolitionist Thank you card | Completed a thank you card to one of the abolitionists on list with details from research in the thank you message (Microsoft Publisher) | Completed a thank you card to one of the abolitionists on list with few details from research in the thank you message (Microsoft Publisher) | Completed a thank you card to one of the abolitionists on list with no details from research in the thank you message (Microsoft Publisher) |
| Programming Robots | Program robot to go and stop at each house with a quilt block and finish going North with no mistakes | Program robot to go and stop at each house with a quilt block and finish going North with 1 – 2 mistakes | Program robot to go and stop at each house with a quilt block and finish going North with 3 or more mistakes |
| Creativity | Shows creativity in the creation of quilt blocks | Shows some creativity in the creation of quilt blocks | Shows little creativity in the creation of quilt blocks |
| Teamwork | Work together without arguing and complete PBL on time | Work together with a little arguing and complete PBL on time | Work together with a little arguing and doesn’t complete PBL on time |

INDIVIDUAL EXTRA CREDIT – create a real Bowtie quilt block - add 10 points to individual’s grade from this project