

Orphan Train Immigration during the Late 1800s

Overview

Using primary sources is a key component of this lesson. Primary sources will be used throughout, along with using inquiry to connect students to how immigration led to orphans. The students will be using opinion with inquiry on primary sources backed up with video/maps for facts. The main focus will be orphans and their travels. The students will role play in an I Am Poem as well as while illustrating and writing a letter to a friend. The students will be using maps to show travels of orphan train and use maps in role play of writing a letter. Students will be able to connect with travels of orphans by listening to the teacher led read aloud of *Train To Somewhere* by Eve Bunting. Vocabulary that is used throughout the book will be shown in photograph form before the book is read.

Objectives

Students will connect with primary sources and will be able to recognize how/why orphans had to travel from New York to Illinois. Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking will play a role in understanding how to connect primary sources with literature and fact/opinion

Investigative Question – On the completion of the lesson students will be able to answer this question:

How can using primary sources connect students to past historical events?

Time Required:

3-30 minutes sessions

Recommended Grade Range

The recommended grade range for this lesson is Grade 4.

Subject / Sub-Subject

Social Studies

Standards

8.4.4.B:

Locate historical **documents**, **artifacts**, and sites, which are critical to World history.

8.1.4.B:

Distinguish between fact and **opinion** from multiple points of view, and **primary sources** as related to historical events

1.4.5.B:

Write multi-paragraph informational pieces (e.g., essays, descriptions, letters, reports, instructions). Use relevant graphics (maps, charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, photographs).



1.4.3.B:

Write informational pieces using illustrations when relevant (e.g., descriptions, letters, reports, instructions).

Credits

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PREPARATION

Materials and Resources Used

- Photographs of the following: 5 different groups of orphans, larkspur, freight yard, fur muffs, box camera (see attached Book Backdrop)
- 15 Copies of Map of United States Railroads(see attached book back drop)
- I Am Poem Template for Assessment enough for each student
- Fact and Opinion Assessment enough for each student(self created)
- Template of Letter enough for each student(self created)
- Template for Illustration enough for each student(self created)
- Video link of orphan trains <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJxHOTO7ufc>
- Book-*Train To Somewhere* by Eve Bunting
- Overhead

Title: Train To Somewhere

Author: Eve Bunting

Grade Level(s): 2-4

Topic/Theme: Orphan Train/Homeless children

Setting and Time Period: late 1800's

Subjects: Orphans

Book Summary: Fourteen orphans traveling west from New York on an orphan train. The children stop at different towns to be presented to couples looking for children to adopt.

Library of Congress Bibliographic Information and Book Notes

Title: 3 children sighting box cameras

Creator: Johnston, Frances Benjamin photographer

Date Created/Published: 1905

URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.php/cph.3a47913>

Summary: Photograph of three children looking at box cameras.

Book Notes: When children arrive at one of the stops, they see a man with a box camera set up to take their pictures upon arrival at the train station.

Title: The Hearth-stone of the poor--waste steam not wasted b&w picture

Creator: Sol Eytinge

Date Created/Published: 1876



<p>URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c06379 Summary: Newspaper picture of homeless people heating themselves with steam rising from grating in pavement. Book Notes: Marianne and other children were homeless orphans in New York.</p>
<p>Title: Larkspur (delphinium) Creator: Johnston, Frances Benjamin (photographer) Date Created/Published: between 1915 and 1935 URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.16703 Summary: B&W Slide of Wildflower Book Notes: Larkspur is packed in luggage to keep fleas away</p>
<p>Title: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, full-length portrait, wearing hat and fur with muff, seated, facing slightly left Creator: Johnston, Frances Benjamin (photographer) Date Created: March 1902 URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3f06252 Summary: Portrait of lady wearing a fur muff Book Notes: One of the couples who are looking over the orphans has on a fur muff.</p>
<p>Title: Freight yards at the north end of Grant Park in Chicago, Illinois Creator: Chicago Daily News, Inc. Date Created: 1915 URL: http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71/w950z75/ Summary: Elevated view of the freight yards at the north end of Grant Park in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Book Notes: While traveling on the train they pass freight yards in the distance.</p>
<p>Title: Armenian orphans Creator: Bains News Service Date Created: no date recorded URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ggb2006001967/ Summary: Group of American orphan children Book Notes: Children were taken from New York who were orphans to be placed onto a train for adoption.</p>
<p>Title: Star orphan excursion Creator: No listing of creator Date Created: 1923 URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/npc2007009250/ Summary: Group of American orphan children Book Notes: Children were taken from New York who were orphans to be placed onto a train for adoption.</p>
<p>Title: Children sitting on the steps Creator: Chicago Daily News, Inc. Date Created: 1904 URL: http://explore.chicagocollections.org/image/chicagohistory/71/000060v/ Summary: Informal portrait of a group of children sitting on the steps of the Oak Park Orphan Home in Oak Park, Illinois. They are wearing hats and coats and looking at the camera. Book Notes: Children were taken from New York who were orphans to be placed onto a train for adoption.</p>
<p>Title: Group made orphans by Cherry Mine disaster where 400 men were entombed, Nov. 13, 1909, Cherry, Ill. / Washington Photo Co. Creator: Washington Photo Co. Date Created: 1909 URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2011661524/ Summary: Photograph shows group portrait of girls and boys Book Notes: Children were taken from New York who were orphans to be placed onto a train for adoption.</p>
<p>Title: Colton's Railroad Map Creator: G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co Date Created: New York 1870 URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3701p.rr000500 Summary: Railroad Map of United States from 1870 Book Notes: The orphan train travels from New York to Illinois</p>



PROCEDURE

Day One

1. Lesson will be started with children being placed in five groups. Each group will be given a different photograph of a group of orphans. Children will be asked to investigate the photograph and will be asked the following questions:

How do you think the children feel?

Where do you think the children are going?

Where do you think the children are?

Why do you think the children are together?

Thumbnails of 5 images that will be used:



The children will be asked to talk as a group about the photographs. A presenter will be assigned along with a recorder. One child will be asked to write down the responses of everyone in the group. One child will be asked to present their groups opinions of the photograph they were given.

2. The students will stay in their groups and will watch a video about orphan trains.(See link below- permission from songwriter and creator of video granted)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJxHOTo7ufc&feature=related>

3. Following the video, the students will be given an I Am Poem Template to fill out. The students will be told that they are to pretend they are an orphan while filling out the I Am Poem. The students will share their I AM Poems to their group and will hand the poem into the teacher.

Day 2

1. Students will be shown photographs of the following vocabulary that they will be introduced to in the book *Train to Somewhere* by Eve Bunting. (Larkspur, Freight Yard, Fur Muffs, Box Camera). The photographs will be shown on overhead. Each photograph will be placed one at a time on overhead and the children will be asked to raise hands to make an inquiry about each



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photograph. The teacher will explain each photograph after students have an opportunity to make predictions.

Thumbnails of Vocabulary Photographs



2. The book *Train to Somewhere* by Eve Bunting will be read to the class by the teacher.

3. The students will be broken up into pairs and the students will be given a railroad map of the United States. Students will be asked to draw train tracks from New York to Illinois. This is the route the children took on the orphan train in the book that was read. The students will be asked to pay attention to features on the map. If they cross over rivers, which states/cities they cross over and distance.

Day 3

1. Students will be asked to individually write a letter and draw a picture to a friend back home. They are to pretend they just rode on the orphan train from New York to Illinois.(see following page for letter template) They will be asked to include the following in their letter and to reference back to the previous lesson when going over the map with their group:

- a) How did you feel when traveling on the orphan train?
- b) What cities or states did you travel through?
- c) Did you travel over any rivers?
- d) Did you make any friends while on the train?
- e) What was the hardest part of riding on the orphan train?
- f) What you miss from home

2. Students will be given an assessment on fact and opinion.



I Am An Orphan Poem

NAME: _____

Create an I AM poem based on what you have learned about orphans and their experiences during the late 1800s:

I am _____
(Two special characteristics)

I wonder _____
(Something you are curious about)

I hear _____
(An imaginary sound)

I see _____
(An imaginary sight)

I want _____
(A desire you have)

I am _____
(The first line of the poem repeated)

I pretend _____
(Something you pretend to do)

I feel _____
(A feeling about something imaginary)

I touch _____
(An imaginary touch)

I worry _____
(Something that bothers you)

I cry _____
(Something that makes you sad)

I am _____
(The first line of the poem repeated)

I understand _____
(Something you know is true)

I say _____
(Something you believe in)

I dream _____
(Something you dream about)

I try _____
(Something you make an effort on)

I hope _____
(Something you hope for)



Friendly Letter from an Orphan

Pretend you are an orphan traveling from New York to Illinois on an orphan train in the late 1800s. Write a letter to a friend from home that includes at least four of these things:

1. How you feel when traveling on the orphan train
2. What cities or states you travel through (HINT: You may look at your maps)
3. What landmarks or rivers you see
4. People you have met while on the train
5. The hardest part about riding on the orphan train
6. What you miss most about home

Date: _____

Dear _____,

Sincerely,



Is That a Fact?

Write **FACT** or **OPINION** after each statement to indicate whether it is a fact or an opinion.

1. Orphans traveled from New York to Illinois so they could become adopted.

2. All children loved traveling on the train.

3. Orphans were happy to travel the railroad to find adoptive parents.

4. Immigration is one of the reasons New York had a lot of orphans.

5. New York City was the best place for orphans to live.

6. Orphan trains were real.

7. Larkspur is the best smelling flower.

8. A Box Camera was a type of camera used during the late 1800's.

9. All women should wear fur muffs.

10. Freight yards are large yards where trains are kept.

