

Grade 4 Social Studies
Mexico Unit

Objective: a. to begin to develop an understanding that many Mexicans have been here for a long time thanks to annexation ...“the first Mexicans to become part of the United States never crossed any border. Instead the border crossed them.” Library of Congress
b. to begin to develop an appreciation that the difficulties of immigrants today are much like those of the European immigrants studied in September

Materials:

- * current map with US and Mexico
- * copies of the language game letter for students to use
- * laptop/computer and the ability to project onto screen for whole class work

Resources:

*<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/mexican2.html>

(Walt Whitman poem with WPA poster, Immigration unit for Mexico which includes map of Mexican Population 1848-1850, land acquisition, language game, interviews with today's immigrants)

* <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/I?fsaall,brum,detr,swann,look,gottscho,pan,horyd,gen..>

(photograph of the Mexican border in 1920)

* <http://www.mla.org/map-single> (map of Spanish speaking current Spanish speaking populations)

1. introduce the letter and have them find the words with the Spanish origins (
2. looking at the map US and Mexico, **Question:** *Why do many English words come from Spanish?*
3. look at either the loc website maps or a US map to locate which states once were owned by Mexico....then quick look at 1846 and 1854 acquisitions which moved the Mexican border: the point being that many Spanish speaking people did not immigrate...they were already here.
4. Look at current language map to discover where most Spanish speaking people are in the US...**Question:** *What do you notice about locations?*
5. using post- its, students will record one reason they think people from Mexico come to the US today...discuss
6. read interviews---whole class (will need to stop and explain)-- of current immigrants....**Question:** *Was your thinking correct as to why Mexicans want to come to the US?*
7. Follow up assignment: for homework, with parental help, find a news article about Mexican immigration from the past week. Class discussion as to similarities with the Ellis Island immigrant experience.

