



Autobiography Lesson Plan

Lesson written by Tina Lyons

STANDARDS:

National Standards for United States History

- Standard 1A – Interpret data presented in time lines.
- Standard 4B – Obtain historical data

LESSON:

Step 1: Start with yourself

Quick write:

Students will start with what they know about themselves. Have them create a web with their name in the middle and record facts about themselves. Record their full name, birthdate, birth place, parents' names, other family members, pets, schools, etc. Encourage to the students to not just focus on the names and dates, but also on their personalities. Add favorite colors, sports, books, movies, TV shows, etc.

As a class, brainstorm other facts to include on the web. Have students continue to add to the web during the class discussion.

Step 2: Interview

Students will interview someone to learn about their early years. Generate a list of questions as a class. Examples include: What happened the day they were born? How did they get their name? What was their first word? What was their first day of school like?

Students can interview parents, adoptive parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles, etc.

Step 3: Collect sources from home

Students will collect photos from different stages of their lives. They can also take photos or bring in items that were special to them during different parts of their lives (stuffed animals, awards, toys, etc.)

Step 4: Add Historical Information

In this step, students will research historical events that have happened locally, nationally and internationally since they were born. What were the newspaper headlines on the day they were born? What was happening in the world on their 5th or 10th birthday? Sources for this information can include newspapers and online websites.

Students can also search city directories or phone books to determine where their family lived throughout their lives.

Step 5: Presentation

Students will create a timeline of their lives to present to the class or the teacher. The timelines can be created by hand or on computers. Students can also create a written report or give an oral presentation to give more details about their lives than can be shown on a timeline. Students can also search city directories or phone books to determine where their family lived throughout their lives.