

Lesson Plan #2 – Reading

Title: What's the Story?

Objectives: Students will develop team-building skills as they integrate reading, writing, math, social studies and science with basic research, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Students will:

1. Demonstrate team-building skills
2. Demonstrate reading and basic research skills via the Internet (if available) or by encyclopedias or reference books.
3. Demonstrate math skills using a calculator.
4. Demonstrate understanding of a sequentially structured lesson that requires a step-by-step procedure to resolve.

Session Time: 50-60 minutes

Equipment: Calculator, Internet access or encyclopedias and reference books

Materials: paper, pencils, pens

Methods: cooperative groups working together to achieve a common goal

Instructions

In this activity, students learn the importance of following each step of a procedure. If one step is skipped, the final answer will be incorrect. Teachers can use this activity to foster team-building skills and to integrate reading, writing, math, social studies and science with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Tell students:

- 1) This is a cooperative group activity. I am assigning teams of 3 to work together. (Assign teams.)
- 2) Read the instructions carefully. There are 10 steps to this problem. If you do not follow each step exactly as it is given, you cannot arrive at the correct solution. .
- 3) However, you may divide up the work any way you like.
- 4) The first group to come up with the correct answer wins a prize!
- 5) Any questions?
- 6) Go!

Activity

Student copy:

Using a calculator:

- 1) Subtract the year that women's suffrage passed in Congress from the year that John F. Kennedy was assassinated.
- 2) Divide the answer to 1) by the number of times that Elizabeth Taylor has been married.
- 3) Round that number to the nearest tenth.
- 4) Add the number of days in February of a leap year.
- 5) Add the year that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.
- 6) Round off to the nearest whole number.
- 7) Subtract the year that the United States officially entered World War II.
- 8) Add the digits of the result of 7) above.
- 9) Select the day of the week that has the most letters in its name. Add that number of letters to the result of 8) above.
- 10) Divide by 2; then multiply by 3.25.

What is the answer?

Teacher copy:

- 1) Subtract the year that women's suffrage passed in Congress from the year that John F. Kennedy was assassinated. **(1920 subtracted from 1963 = 43)**
- 2) Divide the answer to 1) by the number of times that Elizabeth Taylor has been married. **(43 divided by 8 is 5.375)**
- 3) Round that number to the nearest tenth. **(5.4)**
- 4) Add the number of days in February of a leap year. **(29 + 5.4 = 34.4)**
- 5) Add the year that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. **(1941 + 34.4 = 1975.4)**
- 6) Round off to the nearest whole number. **(1975)**
- 7) Subtract the year that the United States officially entered World War II. **(1975 - 1941 = 34)**
- 8) Add the digits of the result of 7) above. **(3 + 4 = 7)**
- 9) Select the day of the week that has the most letters in its name. Add that number of letters to the result of 8) above. **(Wednesday = 9 letters. Add 7. 9 + 7 = 16)**
- 10) Divide by 2; then multiply by 3.25. **(16 / 2 = 8 x 3.25 = 26)**

What is the answer? **26**

Conclusion:

Students work together in their teams. They are encouraged to approach the solution of this activity in ways they think might be most efficient, so they may decide to divide the research responsibilities in order to get the answers more quickly. After they have finished the activity, ask them:

- What was the most difficult part of this activity? Why?
- What did your team do to save time in getting through the activity?

Part II. Suggestions to expand this activity to include writing, social studies, geography, science and art:

Writing, social studies:

- Write an essay describing why the Americans were taken by surprise during the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- What is a kamikaze pilot and why were they so effective? Research this and write a brief report. (*Note: You can expand this question to a critical thinking activity: Why weren't there any American kamikaze pilots?"*)
- *You were there!* Write a first-hand report of what you saw.

Geography, art:

- Draw a map of Hawaii, indicating the specific location of Pearl Harbor. How far is Hawaii from Japan? From the continental United States? Include a scale on the map to indicate the miles.

Science, problem-solving:

- The bombs dropped on Pearl Harbor created fires that raged out of control for a long while. Since there was plenty of water around, how could this happen?
- Assume your firefighting team is first on the scene and that you have access to today's equipment. Write a brief report as to the action you would take and give reasons why you are doing so.

Note: This lesson is included in **“Tell Me, Read Me a Story” Workshop #44** in the ***SIPDC Catalog of Professional Development Opportunities***.