Native Populations of the Americas

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Native Populations of the Americas
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A Social Studies Lesson Plan Designed for a Second Grade Classroom in New Haven Elementary School, New Haven, Indiana.

Goal: The goal of the lesson plan is to introduce and instill multicultural respect for the ancient Native Americans in second grade students.

The topic takes the broader form of native populations in the Americas with virtually unlimited variations on the theme. To create a focal point on the native populations, construct a large map of both continents without the use of man made territorial boundaries. In small groups, give the students the tasks of researching a Native Nation and choosing an image/symbol of the Nation to place on the map in its appropriate location. You should follow-up with a writing task to show them what they will learn about native culture.

Procedure:

1. While focusing the student’s attention to North and South America, ask the students for ideas leading to where and how Native Americans came to these lands. Simple answer is to explain that natives where here for at least 15,000 years before Columbus in 1492. What activities were the Natives engaged in through that 15,000 years span?

2. Continue to inquire into the paths Natives would have taken though these lands. From here forward, design inquiry based questions that address your student grade appropriate level to fit your curriculum. Please use the references in this lesson plan, as there is a huge database of excellent material.

The time frame of the lesson has no boundaries. It has the potential for a one day mini-lesson, or a full semester, one-day-per-week curriculum plan.