

The Day of Your Birth

Introduction

Have you ever wondered what was going on in the world on the day you were born? Did anything really important happen? What were the popular movies playing? What were the clothing styles like? This lesson provides you with an opportunity to compare and contrast then to now.

Overview

Students will be required to use researching skills to find out specific information from a specific day in history. Through the use of the online Oklahoman Archives, students will practice searching for information and then present an oral report of their findings.

Grade Level: 4-6

Subject: History, Language Arts

Objectives:

1. Student will utilize technology skills to navigate through the stored information to retrieve specific detailed information from a specific date.
2. Students will search for specific information from an online source.
3. Students will develop an outline and utilize it to give an oral report detailing the information discovered in their research.
4. Student will use descriptive language to compare and contrast everyday items.

Standards:

Oklahoma PASS Information Technology Standard 5:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of technology research tools.

1. Use telecommunications and online resources (e.g., e-mail, online discussions, Web environments) to participate in collaborative problem-solving activities for the purpose of developing solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom.

Oklahoma PASS Social Studies Standard 1:

The student will develop and practice the process skills of social studies.

1. Demonstrate the ability to utilize research materials, such as encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, newspapers, photographs, visual images, and computer-based technologies.

Oklahoma PASS Language Arts Standard 5:

Research and Information - The student will conduct research and organize information.

1. Interpreting Information - Analyze and evaluate information from a variety of sources.
 - B. Take notes to paraphrase or summarize information.
 - C. Report on the findings of research in a variety of formats including written, oral, and/or visual presentations.

Oklahoma PASS Oral Language and Speaking Standard 2:

Speaking - The student will express ideas and opinions in group or individual situations.

1. Speak articulately and audibly before a group using appropriate delivery (enunciation, volume, timing, and gestures) and language skills (pronunciation, word choice, and usage).

Required Materials:

1. Internet Access with link set to Oklahoman Archives.
<http://schools.newsok.com/#####/archives> Schools should input their state ID to replace the "#s" in the URL.

Activities & Procedures:

1. Begin with overview of the Oklahoman Archives. This is a great tool for searching for information. To get familiar with the capabilities, review "Quick Guide to Oklahoman Archives". (Available on main page)
2. Brainstorm the types of information that you may be able to find from such a resource. (What happened on specific days?, What was "front page news" in the year you were born?, How did things 10-15 years ago compare to today in terms of cost, styles, jobs, etc.?)

3. Students will pull up the paper printed on their specific birth date. By searching the paper, students will answer as many of the questions below as they can.
 - a. What was the topic of the front page on the day you were born?
 - b. What was the weather like on the day you were born?
 - c. Pick three articles from the paper and give a brief summary of each.
 - d. Review the sports page and give a summary of a sporting event that was reported on the day you were born.
 - e. Find a movie that was playing on the day you were born?
 - f. From the pictures, what can you say about the clothing styles that were common on the day you were born?
 - g. Look at the ads for food and compare the prices to the prices that would be paid for the same item today. List at least 3 items and their costs.
 - h. Find an ad for a common household item (i.e. appliance, tool, furniture, utensils) and compare the price to what the item costs today.
 - i. Look at the comic page and compare to the comics page today. How is it different? How is it the same?
 - j. Find a classified ad for a job. Is the job something that would be advertised for today? Is the wording similar? Compare the salary offered to a similar job offered in today's paper.

4. Students will write and outline that will be used to give an oral report summarizing their findings. The emphasis in the report should be to compare and contrast as many things as they can. Be sure to cite source appropriately.

5. Review procedure for citing an on-line newspaper resource:
 - a. APA guidelines for citing an on-line newspaper source is as follows:
Author Last Name, First Name,. (Year, Date of Article). Title of Article. *Name of Paper*. Retrieved on Date you accessed article, from URL address.

Example:
Unknown Author. (1959, September 20). Nobody is as Versatile as Busy Tony Randall. *The Oklahoman*. Retrieved on September 7, 2005, from <http://olive.newsok.com/archive/Skins/Oklahoman/navigator.asp?skin=Oklahoman&BP=OK>.