

WASAH Lesson Plan/Unit Project Proposal
July 24, 2009
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1. This year's lesson/unit will be on the local impact of Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives. Specifically, I would like to focus on the impacts of the CCC and WPA in the Green Bay, Fox Valley, and Northeastern Wisconsin area. In teaching this time period to last year's classes, my students and I found many relevant and interesting connections to today's economy and the federal government initiatives to help end the current recession. The primary question that I would like to address is whether or not the projects conducted in the 1930's had a lasting impact in the area, or did they simply fill a need to give temporary work/relief to those unemployed in the area. The knowledge/skills that I hope my students will acquire from this are the importance and relevance of historical research at the local and state level.
2. I would like to have my students work with Deb Anderson, archivist at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, to try and find records connected to our area that show project listings, employment data, and other relevant information to locate and map out CCC and WPA projects in our area. I also would like to bring in Dr. Kersten and/or Dr. Voelker to collaborate with my students on finding and using primary documents and sources when researching a topic. I would also like to see if they can impart some of their wisdom on the necessity for working with local history and local archives.
3. I would like to work with the fifth and sixth grade social studies staff in developing ways that we can introduce our U.S. History topics to the local level. I would like to see if Ms. Anderson could have a stronger connection to engaging my colleagues into making use of the archives and having a greater connection to local history as it pertains to our benchmarks on the national/global level.
4. I would like my students to identify and locate local CCC/WPA projects. I would then like them to analyze why those projects were chosen and what made them important enough to receive federal funding. Then I would like my students to analyze whether or not the project they found still exists, still benefits the local economy, or what impact the project may have on the area that may not be seen in economical measures. (i.e. conservation, beautification, and the like) I would also like my students to come up with a modern-day project or proposal for the Green Bay/Northeast Wisconsin region that would receive funding from a modern CCC/WPA initiative. My students will be using the National Archives and Wisconsin State Historical Society websites along with other acceptable online resources to do a bulk of their research. We will also use class handouts of reproducible articles, archival journals, and other relatable archival documents that may be provided by Ms. Anderson. Hopefully students will understand the complexities of freedom by understanding unemployment, poverty and freedom from want while researching this topic and connecting it to current circumstances in our area and our national/global economy.

5. This lesson will be taught at the sixth grade level to a U.S. survey class that covers Reconstruction to the present.

I will include at a later date relevant district standards after meeting with fellow social studies teachers in developing this unit together.

Some relevant state standards:

FOURTH-TWELFTH GRADE

Historical Eras and Themes

While studying Wisconsin history, students in **grades 4-12** will learn about:

1. prosperity, depression, industrialization, and urbanization
2. Wisconsin's response to 20th century change

FIFTH-TWELFTH GRADE

Historical Eras and Themes

While studying United States history, students in **grades 5-12** will learn about:

1. prosperity, depression, and the New Deal, 1920-1941

6. I have listed some of the relevant online sources, but will also include resources from Ms. Anderson at a later date.

Records of the Works Progress Administration:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/069.html#69.2.1>

Wisconsin Historical Society:

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

National Archives:

<http://www.archives.gov/>

UWGB Archives

www.uwgb.edu/library/spc/arc.asp