

Picturing America Lesson Plan: Urban Landscapes
From: Laura Kilcoyne Begani

Objective: Students will learn how the steel industry changed the landscape of the country.

Guiding Question: How did the industrialization of America change the world you live in?

Materials: Computer lab, printer, Media Center databases and books.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Use the photograph of the Brooklyn Bridge by Walker Evans as a starting point for discussion about industrialization.
2. Create and present lecture about the changes taking place around the major cities in America during the time of the Industrial Revolution.
3. Have students view the 1981 PBS video entitled *Brooklyn Bridge* which shows the construction of the bridge.
4. Students will visit the Media Center where they will be given the assignment. Students will be given a building/structure in Chicago that they will be expected to research. They will find an image of that building and then research the history in order to create a postcard.
5. The librarian will then discuss how to find images appropriate for the assignment as well as how to find research on the structure they choose. *See attached list of websites/databases.*

Student Procedure:

1. After discussion of industrialization and the steel industry students will be expected to do some research on their own. Students will be given a list of structures to choose from that personify the changing landscape of America. They will be given time in the Media Center to do their research. Research will consist of the history of the structure and how it impacted the community. This research will be done using databases and websites.
2. Students will then use the template to fill in the requested information on their structure.
3. Once the lesson is explained to the class, the librarian will demonstrate the various websites, databases or books that students could use for their research.
4. Students will be given 2 days in the library to find their image and then research it. They will also be expected to fill out the template provided for them in the two day window.

Assessment:

1. This project is worth 25 points. It is an individual grade.
 - a. 5 pts. – selecting an appropriate picture
 - b. 10 pts. – paragraph on historical summary
 - c. 10 pts. – creativity / appeal of the postcard

Structures:

Medinah Temple
Elevated Train
Marquette Building
Wrigley Field
Tribune Tower
Field Museum
Civic Opera House
Water Tower
Comiskey Park

Michigan Avenue Bridge
Auditorium Theater
Navy Pier
Unitarian Temple
Wrigley Building
Museum of Science and Industry
Newberry Library
Art Institute
Central Music Hall

The postcard must include:

Building address
History of the structure
Year the building was completed
Image of the building

EXAMPLE



Front of postcard

Back of postcard

CHICAGO PICASSO

Built 1967

50 West Washington, Chicago - Daley Plaza

The Chicago Picasso sculpture was commissioned by Pablo Picasso himself in the cubist style. Picasso gladly took on the commission and refused payment, donating both the statue and a 42 inch model to the city.

The statue weighs in at 162 tons and stands 50 feet tall. The sculpture is made of Cor-Ten steel which weathers over time into its current brownish reddish hue. The statue was made and assembled at the U. S. Steel Corporation in Gary, Indiana.

The Picasso was unveiled on August 15, 1967 to critical audiences. Even though the statue was disliked by many it has come to be known as a Chicago landmark.

Resources

Books:

Grossman, James R., ed. *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago : The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Kogan, Herman & Rick. *Yesterday's Chicago*. Miami : E. M. Seemann Publishers, 1976.

McNulty, Elizabeth. *Chicago Then and Now*. San Diego : Thunder Bay Press, 2000.

Databases:

World Book Encyclopedia

American History

Websites:

Chicago History Museum

www.chicagohistory.org

Encyclopedia of Chicago

www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org

Chicago Landmarks

<http://ci.chi.il.us/Landmarks/index.html>

Chicago History

<http://chicagohistoryonline.wordpress.com>

Chicago: City of the Century

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/chicago/>