

A Mountain Rhapsodies Celebration of the George Washington Bicentennial

Community Objective(s)

To involve schools, businesses, and civic organizations who are interested in promoting an awareness of the affect that George Washington had on our local history and to inform the community of the Mountain Rhapsodies events through brochures, newspaper, and radio announcements. We want to involve the community in the Mountain Rhapsody celebration as guests and participants.

Background

This project originated in a residential school setting for students who are blind and visually impaired. Through our local historical society and historical reenactment groups, our students were able to identify the need to promote awareness of the George Washington Bicentennial. As a group that usually receives services, these participants became service providers rather than service recipients.

Mountain Rhapsodies is a celebration of our mountain heritage. Students and staff will work hard to discover lost “treasures” in and around our community. These “treasures” have been searched for in the form of original music, crafts, food, and traditions. So much of our heritage has been kept alive by the forefathers of earlier generations, who selflessly passed these gifts on through the ages. Mountain Rhapsodies is an attempt to re-capture the spirit of old-time music, enjoy the flavors of the past, see the artistry, fashions and crafts, and enjoy some games our ancestors played during the period when George Washington surveyed our local area. Students learn much more than history from this project. They enhance their skills in music and art, and learn to use the Internet and develop leadership, organizational, and social skills, as well.

WEST VIRGINIA'S
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Students involved in this project are in grades K-12 and are blind or visually impaired. Some students are also mentally and physically challenged. All students can be active participants and service providers in the Mountain Rhapsodies celebration by:
- ~Providing all materials in large print or in Braille including computer screens with large print or speech
- ~Providing sighted guides when necessary
- ~Including each student in a least one stage of planning, preparation, or implementation of the project according to grade and/or ability level

Resources

- ~Project coordinator and volunteers
- ~Copy machine and other office equipment
- ~Braille and braille paper
- ~Various classroom and art supplies
- ~Computer and computer software for certificates and research work on Internet
- ~Craft supplies
- ~Decorations
- ~Make colonial games and toys
- ~Book: Willard Wirtz (1990). *Capon Valley Sampler, Sketches of Appalachia from George Washington to Caudy Davis*. Bartleby Press, 11411 Georgia Ave. Silver Spring, Maryland 20902. (301.949.2443)
- ~Useful Internet addresses:
 - <http://www.loc.nls>
 - <http://wwwaph.org/Amazon.com.bookstore>
 - <http://earlyamerica.com/review/lives/chaptl/text.html/1998>
 - <http://www.GeorgeWashington>

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Timeline

September-October

- ~Set date and get approval for facility and implementation of the project
- ~Get approval to use all facilities and equipment
- ~Explain the project to the students. Provide an overview of George Washington's life and character
- ~Divide the class into groups and assign topics for Internet research

November-December

- ~Make student assignments according to individual talents and abilities
- ~Appoint a chairperson to supervise the layout of the brochure
- ~Continue Internet research
- ~Make all community contacts
- ~Make all activity assignments

January-February

- ~Complete all data from Internet research to incorporate into the program
- ~Plan and develop program
- ~Print brochure describing the Mountain Rhapsodies event

March-April

- ~Distribute the brochure
- ~Practice the program
- ~Prepare the decorations
- ~Advertise the event in the media

May

- ~Set up all displays and decorate
- ~Implement the event according to the schedule
- ~Carry out the event
- ~Clean up and return the equipment at the end

Reflection

- ~Students will complete a journal describing how they felt about the project
- ~Students will discuss and evaluate the project

Celebration

- ~Students will receive certificates of recognition upon completion of the project at a pizza party
- ~Receive public recognition in the local media

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Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

IGOs can be modified by grade level to meet the diversity of students in each grade level and the special needs population

Understanding Music in Relation to History and Culture

- ~Identify familiar folk songs (K.27)
- ~Sing at least three patriotic songs (1.27)
- ~Discuss music's role in society (4.28)
- ~Research and report the evolution of Appalachian folk music (Fl.36)

Process/Workplace Objectives/Problem Solving

- ~Given a set of rules, directions, or instructions, apply them to solve a problem or accomplish a task (PW.2)
- ~Given an event or activity, identify the resources needed and develop a plan of action (PW.5)
- ~Demonstrate an understanding of oral, visual, and written information by summarizing it and following through with appropriate action (PW.8)

History

- ~Research historical facts, customs, foods, clothing, music, and social activities that occurred during George Washington's formative years

Contact Information

Sherry Eglinger, Wendi Durst and Cheri Beverage
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
Romney, WV 26757
(304) 822-4884