

Great Frontiers

Purpose

The purpose of these activities is explore the similarities and differences between the Old West and Space, in terms of exploration and development/use of resources, and social impact.

Students will be able to

1. Compare and contrast the Old West and Space, in terms of exploration, resource development, and social impact.
2. Research the topic thoroughly, using both library and internet resources.
3. Write effectively about the topic.

Important Vocabulary (key terms in bold)

Space	Old West	exploration	resources
history	frontier	pioneer	

***Note:** This lesson will take anywhere from one to four weeks, depending on the level of the students. Older or more advanced students can use time outside of class for some of the research, and the paper(s) can be given as homework assignment(s).*

How the West was Won

Students read about the Old West in history texts. In class, students discuss what it might have been like to live in that era. Then students use library and internet resources to research the topic in more depth, in order to write an informative paper (minimum of five pages) on the Old West itself, living in that time period, and the lessons carried forward from that era.

The Mysterious Beyond

Students read about the history of Space and its exploration. In class, students discuss what it might be like to live in the future, relative to the topic. Then students use library and internet resources to research the topic further. Students use their research to write an essay (minimum of five pages) on “the Mysterious Beyond” and the [social] implications of at least one of the many current exploratory missions.

The First and the Final Frontiers

Students compare and contrast the Old West and Space, using graphic organizers (e.g. web, tree, outline, etc.). This can be done individually or in small groups. Then students write a comparison paper (minimum of five pages) using their graphic organizers as guides. Students may also refer to their papers from the previous writing activities.

Helpful Resources

The following resources (in no particular order) might be helpful in kick-starting discussion/research.

1. <http://www.space-frontier.org/Policies/alphatown.html>
2. <http://teacher.scholastic.com/space/>
3. <http://history.nasa.gov/painerep/begin.html>
4. <http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Social/frontier/SH4.htm>
5. <http://www.42explore2.com/oldwest.htm>
6. http://www.spacefuture.com/archive/the_ethical_commercialization_of_outer_space.shtml
7. <http://charon.sfsu.edu/FRONTIERS/ComparingFrontiers.html>
8. http://www.coreknowledge.org/CKproto2/resrcs/lessons/01_5_WildWest.pdf
9. <http://www.enotes.com/outcasts-poker/34304>
10. <http://techlink.msu.montana.edu/articles/futurefrontiers.html>