

Michael Meyers Lesson Plan: Place Based Pedagogy

Lesson Title: Charles Denver Barger

11th grade US History

Notes: This lesson will be conducted over the course of three class periods.

Day 1: Field trip to Blue Springs Cemetery

Day 2: research in classroom

Day 3: narrative writing in groups

Objectives/Learning targets:

- Students will be able to explain how genealogical databases (ancestry.com/newspaper archive) can be used in conducting research regarding veterans or relatives.
- Students will be able to draft a narrative for the life of Charles Denver Barger.

Resources/Materials:

- Ancestry.com
- Newspaper Archive Database
- Blue Springs South Mid-Continent Public Library credentials (provided by BSSHS LMC)
- District provided laptop
- Charles Denver Barger Primary source (provided by teacher)

Anticipatory Set/Hook:

- This lesson would take place after a WWI unit. After the unit is concluded, we will discuss WWI veterans in the KC area. Teacher will stress the importance of learning the stories of these veterans so they are not lost to history.
 - This will then be a good time to open up a short discussion:
 - Teacher could ask students if they have any veterans in their family
 - Teacher could ask if students know of any local veterans
 - Teacher could remind students that General John J Pershing was from MO
- After discussion, the teacher will inform students of the upcoming field trip to the Blue Springs Cemetery. The teacher will state that the purpose of said field trip will to be to visit the WWI memorial in order to begin research Medal of Honor recipient Charles Denver Barger (buried in Blue Springs Cemetery)
- Several weeks prior to lesson, the teacher will inform students of an upcoming field trip to the Blue Springs cemetery. The teacher will discuss permission slips and fine details with students. The teacher will also stress the decorum necessary when visiting a cemetery.

Teacher Activities:

Day 1:

- Prior to field trip, teacher will separate class into equal groups

- Cemetery staff will meet students, give a brief history of the cemetery, mention notable residents, and answer any questions that the students might have.
- During the field trip, the teacher will assist students in exploring the Blue Springs Cemetery.
- Teacher will point out the WWI memorial and the grave of Charles Barger
- Teacher will encourage students to explore the rest of the cemetery

Day 2:

- Teacher will introduce students to genealogical research.
 - Teacher can demonstrate on the class projector how to conduct this research.
 - Teacher can type in Charles Barger's name to Ancestry.com and Newspaper Archives.
 - Teacher will demonstrate how to use the search tools and navigate search results.
- Teacher will provide students with login credentials for MCPL databases
- Teacher will separate class into equal groups
 - Each group will be tasked in researching the life of Charles Barger and producing a narrative of his story.
 - Students will have the rest of class time to find sources relevant to the narrative
- Teacher will assist students in accessing the appropriate databases and finding sources

Day 3:

- Teacher will provide each group with a primary source (newspaper article about Charles Barger published at his time of death)
 - This is to ensure every group has a base amount of information to work with.
- Using the sources found on day 2, and one provided by the teacher, students will be tasked in writing a narrative for Charles Barger.
 - Each group will produce 1 narrative total
- Teacher will assist students with the writing process and answer any questions that may arise.
- After students finish writing, they will participate in closure discussion

Student Activities:

In this lesson series, students will be introduced to genealogical research and discuss the importance of recording the histories of veterans or relatives.

Before the field trip, students will participate in a class discussion about veteran's stories. Students will have the opportunity to share with class about any veterans in their family (and their stories). Students will also reflect in this discussion why it is important to remember these stories. After the discussion, students will learn that they are going on a field trip to the Blue Springs Cemetery. They will understand that the purpose of the trip is to begin research on the WWI Veteran (and MOH recipient) Charles Denver Barger.

During the field trip, students will tour the Blue Springs Cemetery. They will listen to a brief presentation from cemetery staff, examine the WWI memorial and the grave of Charles Barger. They will also explore the cemetery after.

On day two, students will listen to a brief presentation in the use of genealogical databases. The teacher will demonstrate to students how to use ancestry.com and newspaper archives. In groups, students will use these databases to conduct research on Charles Barger. Students will be instructed to find multiple sources and take notes on what they find.

On the third day, students will write a narrative about Charles Barger. They will do so in the same groups from the day before. They will use the sources they found the day before and the one provided by the teacher. Students will be expected to write about his early life, time in the service, why he was awarded the MOH, and his later life. After each group writes their narrative, they will participate in a closure discussion.

Closure Strategy:

This will be conducted through a class discussion. Teacher will ask each group a couple of questions such as: What was the most interesting thing you learned through this process? Why is it important to conduct this type of research?

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