

Lesson Plan 1

Topographical Explorations

Objective: Students will be able to recognize the cause and effect relationship between army exploration and national events in the 1800s.

Materials Needed: Copies of the Army Explorers of the 19th Century Chart and Handout A for each student. American History textbook. United States Atlas and/or Maps.

Procedure: Divide students into groups. Assign one group to each of the following time periods: 1800-1840; 1841-1848; 1849-1859; 1860-1879. Give each group a copy of the questions on Lesson 1, Handout A. Have each group use the chart, their textbooks, maps, atlases, or other resources to answer the questions. Each student will need to have their own copy of the answers to the questions. When the groups have answered the questions, have them report their answers to the class. Here are a couple of cooperative learning suggestions for sharing the information:

1. Have students mix around the room. At a pre-selected signal, students need to pair with another student who was not in their original group. Ask the students a question. Give time for each student to answer the question for each other from their notes. After each student has had an opportunity to share their information, have students mix around the room again and repeat procedure.
2. Have students number off within each group. Call a number. That person "strays" to another group to gather or share information on a particular question. Continue calling numbers and having students "stray" to different groups. Eventually, have all "strayed" students meet back in their group to share gained information.

Lesson 1

Handout A

1. Who were the famous explorers of your assigned time period?

