

LESSON: RESEARCH – LIBRARY VISITS

Essential Questions: 1. What else can I find at the library? 2. What can other libraries offer that is not at my school library?

Objectives: At the end of this lesson students will be able to use public or university library systems to help them research.

Grade Level: 6 – 12

Time Needed: Day 1: Pre-research. Day 2: Library visit.

Procedure

To the Teachers: At this point, it is a great opportunity to invite History Day helpers (such as mentors, staff, or interested community members) into your classroom to reach more students in one class period. The helper and you can discuss research possibilities with more students.

This is also an opportunity to expand the research locations students have been using by visiting a local public or college library. Plan a field trip to your chosen library with students to learn about what they have available. They may have more access to online databases and other types of sources. Meet or communicate with the librarian beforehand to see if they can have a presentation about resources, make them aware of what students are already using, and see if they can pull books or magazines or articles about the topics the students are researching.

Day 1: Introduce primary and secondary sources, depending on ability

1. Students have been finding sources, and taking notes.
 - a. Which of your research questions have you answered so far?
 - b. How do these answers help your understanding of the topic?
 - c. What new research questions do you have?
 - d. Where can you look to find those answers?
 - e. What new resources do you want to find?
 - f. What should you expect at the library?
2. Librarian or MINITEX Presentation: Get an overview of how to find resources and give students time to practice. Watch a video or walk through the library research catalog. Have students write down sources they will want to gather the day at the library. Having done the pre-research will help utilize the time wisely at the library.

Day 2: Library Visit

Visit the library to gather the sources discovered the day before. Also, continue filling out note-sheets and answering research questions.

Lesson Extension/Alternative

Have a Librarian Visit the Classroom: Different libraries are available and if you cannot go to a library, consider having a librarian come to you. Then students are aware of what their public library card can do and go there on their own time. Consider the local public library, a university library, the Minnesota Historical Society, or a MINITEX representative: <http://www.elibrarymn.org/>

Come to a Hullabaloo: Share the local possible Hullabaloo dates at the public or university libraries.

Journal about Experiences: Have students complete a “Library Research Trip Journal” answering questions about their trip and a handy place to keep all of the notes from sources at the library.