



Lesson One

What I Think I Know

Goal: The students will complete a pre assessment activity to establish baseline knowledge that will assist the teacher in planning for the Bent's Fort connection of Colorado History.

Objectives:

- each student will make a list of what he/she thinks they know about the early 1800's (no discussion or corrections at this time)
- Each student will make a list of questions he/she "wonders" about
- the teacher will collect and analyze the papers to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the students and plan accordingly
- students will go back and analyze the "I Think I Know" statements and check for accuracy

Colorado Model Content Standards Addressed:

Mathematics: K-4 & 5-8 (3.3), Reading & Writing: K-4 (4.3) 5-8 (4.3, 4.4)

History: K-4 & 5-8 (3.1)

Materials Needed:

K.W.L. Activity Sheet (Graphic Organizer included)

K = What I think I Know

W = What I Want to find out

L = What I Learned

Background Information:

This information will be informative for teachers. Use the students K.W.L. Use the Activity Sheet to analyze their present thinking and to establish a baseline of knowledge. Also use their questioning to assist in the unit planning. This gives the students a sense of connectedness and ownership. As a whole class project go over the items that the students thought they knew. Put their "I Think I Know" statements on an overhead leaving off any names. Orally discuss the ideas listed and have the students, along with the teacher, discuss the statements for accuracy.

Activity one and two should be completed before any teaching begins to assure that you get a true picture of:

- that which is unknown
- that which is confused
- that which is already known
- that which is intriguing to the students

Activity One:

Pass out a K.W.L. Activity Sheet to each student, as this will be completed independently. Have the students fill in the column that is labeled What I Know. Encourage them to put in as much information as they think they know. Use the back

of the paper if necessary. Remind them not to worry if their answers are right or wrong at this time. Let them know that they will be studying the Bent's Fort component of Colorado History and this will help the teacher develop the teaching units. Tell them also that at the end of the unit you will come back to these items and discuss them for accuracy.

Activity Two: Have the students change their focus to the second column, What I Want to Find Out, on the K.W.L. Activity Sheet. Think about what they wrote in column one. Ask them, "What are you curious about?" and have them make a list of "wonder" questions so they too can be considered in planning the Bent's Fort component of Colorado History.

Activity Three: Hand back the students K.W.L. worksheet at the end of the unit. Have them write 3 -5 things that they learned from the Bent's Fort unit in the third column labeled, What I Learned. This may be used as a mini assessment.

K.W.L Activity Sheet

What I Know

What I Want to Find Out

What I learned