

Lesson Plan – Planning the Trek

Summary -Students will use maps to locate specific points and measure the distances between the points.

Grade Level - 4th grade

Subject Areas -Math, Social Studies, Civics, Geography

Setting - Classroom

Duration - 30 minutes or more

Skills - Spatial relevance, map measurement, map reading,

Core Standards - MS Social Studies Competency 3, a, c

Vocabulary - Legend, Map Key, boatman

Learning Objectives - The students will be able to: 1) locate various places on Natchez Trace Parkway 2) Identify landmarks on a map 3) measure distances between points on a map. 4) Use personal judgment to plan a successful trip.

Teacher Set: Students they will pretend they are mapping out a hike along the Natchez Trace. They will determine how long it would take to walk the Natchez Trace Parkway today. They can then determine how long an experienced bicyclist would take to make the trip. They could also determine how long it would take a car to travel the entire Natchez Trace. They will compare their answers to the average time it took historic boatmen to travel the Trace. They can work in pairs.

Teacher Overview: The old Natchez Trace was a hard place to walk. A very fast journey would take about two weeks. Most people took much longer; some people died or were murdered before they completed their journey. A healthy person in good shape can walk 15 or 20 miles per day. An experienced bicyclist may travel 50 miles per day. The speed limit on the Natchez Trace Parkway is 50 miles per hour.

Student Instruction: Today, the Natchez Trace Parkway is made for driving two hundred years ago, people walked the route. You will be planning a hiking trip along the entire Natchez Trace Parkway. Be sure to consider whether or not you can find good places to stop, eat and sleep each night. You are only supposed to camp in campgrounds.

Student Task: Map a hike along the Natchez Trace. You may hike no more than 20 miles per day. You may hike less than 20 miles. You will need to stop at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace.

Suggestions for re-teaching: Play the Trekking the Trace Classroom Game





