

Klondike Gold Rush Lesson Plan

The Klondike Goldrush was an extremely important event for Alaska history. Thousands of people came through Alaska on their way to Canada and the Yukon. Gold fever gripped the country and the world as news of unimaginable riches were being realized just by digging dirt out of the ground. This assignment will have the students doing a project on the Gold Rush. It will encompass a visual, primary documents, and an essay.

Timeframe

I usually give one to two days of research in the computer lab and/or library. I have also put out materials that our library has to help get things started. However, the internet is sufficient for the project if hard copy materials are not available. After the research of class time, I usually give two weekends of time before I make the project due.

Standards/benchmarks

Alaska State Standards. History A,B,C Government G, Geography B, English/Language arts D,E

Lesson Objectives

1. students will understand what a primary document is.
2. Students will understand major events leading up to the Rush.
3. Students will understand the journey from Seattle up to Klondike.
4. Students will understand Dyea and Skagway's connection to the Rush.
5. Students will understand mining's impact on Alaska's history, past & present
6. Students will present info with written and visual representation.

Assessment/evaluation

1. students will research the Klondike Gold rush.
2. Students will learn what a primary document is, and will examine 6 primary documents from the Gold Rush, roughly 1896 until 1907.
3. Primary documents will be presented, either copied from source, or printed from internet page. Summaries of all six documents will be submitted as well. 25 points for documents
4. Students will decide upon a visual form for project. Most students will make posters/collages, but some may decide alternatives such as diaries, dioramas, demonstrations, etc with instructor approval 25 points for visual
5. Students will write a 2-3 page essay describing what it was like for the 90% of people who traveled to the Klondike using the Chilkoot and White Pass trails. Double spaced, typed. 30 points for paper
6. Total score is 80 points for project.

Materials and supplies—internet is the best option. However, if you have access to a library, put out books and maps showing the areas and times of the Rush. I don't provide poster paper or the like as it is up to the students to decide what they want to do. I don't provide class time for this assignment to write and make the visuals, the only time is for research.