



Children of Early Appalachia

Creative Thinking Through History

Lesson Plan for Grades 2 through 6

Basic Concept

Our lives are profoundly affected by the time and condition in which we live. By observing objects from the past, asking questions, and projecting into the future, we can understand the significance of objects in very personal ways.

Tennessee Social Studies Standards

- 2.1.01a Recognize most cultures preserve important personal and public items from the past.
- 3.5.tpi.7. Assemble historical information using a variety of sources
- 4.3.02b Explain how physical and human characteristics of places and regions within the state and the United States developed.
- 5.1.tpi.2. Group and label American history artifacts to find common characteristics and to make generalizations about American cultural similarities and subcultures.
- 5.5.tpi.7. Analyze primary sources not limited to but including artifacts, diaries, letters, photographs, art, documents, newspapers, contemporary media, and computer information systems to make generalizations about events and life in United States history since 1865.
- 6.1.06 Understand the influence of science and technology on the development of culture through time.

Method

Based upon the grade level of your students, select an object or objects and have them:

1. Discuss its materials, design, function, and how the object was used.
2. Make some interpretations about the way of life when that object was in use. For example, a tea kettle suggests that water was heated. We can discuss why the water was heated, what hot water was used for, where the water comes from, who got the water, how it was carried, and how the use of water is different in today's world.
3. Compare each object to its counterpart in modern society and suggest reasons for the change, if any, in materials or design. Trace its development or evolution to the present day.
4. Project what common object from today might be like one hundred years from now. Discuss what future societies might interpret about our way of life from objects we leave behind.