Meet the Family Dog!

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OVERVIEW

Students will learn how dogs contributed to the family life in Colorado Indian societies.

STANDARDS

• Language Arts Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
• Language Arts Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.
• History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.

OBJECTIVES

• Students will write a paragraph from the dog’s point of view with the theme: “A Typical Day in My Life.”
• Students show the different roles that dogs play in the daily life of their family.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

• Where did the Colorado Indians get dogs?
• Were the dogs kept as pets?
• What jobs did the dogs perform that helped the Colorado Indian family?

MATERIALS

• Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians – Family, Children, Infant
• Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians – Hunting
• Other local materials that the teacher has gather as resources for this activity.
Computer for use with the CD-ROM disk or connected to the internet

PROCEDURE

1. To find information about the role of dogs in Colorado Indian family life, have the students search and read about the photographs from Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the sections: Colorado Indians – Family, Children, Infant.

2. Have them also refer to the photographs from Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disk or web site -the section: Colorado Indians – Hunting.

3. Using the graphic organizer “It’s a Dog’s Life,” have the students take notes about the different roles that dogs played.

4. Students use their notes to write a paragraph from the dog’s perspective about his daily life within the Colorado Indians family.

5. Stories can either be read aloud or displayed for leisure reading.

EXTENSIONS

1. Illustrate the paragraph.
2. Create a dialog between two dogs from different families in the tribe comparing their daily routines.
3. Create a dialog between a dog from a Colorado Indian family and your own dog comparing their daily routines.

ASSESSMENT

Formal:
- Written paragraph that includes the importance of the dog as a pet and also as a working animal to the Colorado Indians. The paragraph may include some of the following examples:
  As pets
  - Dressed up by children
  - Harnessed to travois by children for play
  - Need for attention and petting
  - Companions to the people
  As a working animal
  - Harnessed to travois for transportation of belongings and supplies.
  - Kept the campsite clean of garbage.
  - No upkeep - ran wild and found own food.