



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee

“Appreciating the Pioneer Woman”

Lesson Plan

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Grade Level: 6th

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

Texas TEKS 113.189(b)(1)(a) History- The student understands that historical events influence contemporary events. The student is expected to (A) trace characteristics of various contemporary societies in regions that resulted from historical events such as colonization, immigration, and trade.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

To compare and contrast the role of the pioneer woman caring for her family with the role of the woman today and predicting how that role will impact women of the future.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

"Little House on the Prairie" TV Show (all or excerpts)

Journal

"Madonna's of the Trail" - Wikipedia, "A Pioneer Woman Looks Back" poem by Bobbi Katz

4. Introduction of the topic:

Students will watch an episode/excerpts from "Little House on the Prairie" and make notes of the role of the woman. Students will read the poem and discuss what life must have been like in 1874. Students will interview their own mom to see what her role in the home is today.

5. Procedure for instruction:

Students will use notes from show, poem and interview and make a compare/contrast poster about the life of the Pioneer woman vs Today. As an extension to the lesson, students could predict how the women of the past will make an impact on the role of women in the future. Students could write a letter to themselves to be opened in the future that predicts those roles.

6. Lesson closure:

Teacher can introduce "Madonna's of the Trail" monuments as evidence that the role of the pioneer woman was so important that it has been memorialized with placement of 12 identical monuments in 12 states along the National Old Trails Road extending from Maryland to California. Students will review how the role of the Pioneer woman impacts the role of women today and even into the future.

7. Assessment of student understanding:

Presentation of the posters and material contained in them would be a wonderful assessment. If extension is used, letters could be sealed in an enveloped dated for future.