

Lesson Plan

Biography Essays

Series: Indigenous Biographies

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students write a short essay about an influential Indigenous person.

Supplies

- One or more books in the Indigenous Biographies series
- Whiteboard
- Paper
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- Which tribe or nation is this person part of?
- What was this person's early life like?
- What kind of work did this person do?
- What challenges or hardships did this person face?
- What was this person's legacy or lasting impact?

Activity

Indigenous people in the United States of America have made important achievements in many areas of life. They have also faced discrimination. The Indigenous Biographies series tells the stories of some of these people, highlighting both their accomplishments and the challenges they have faced.

Have each student choose one book from the series. Students should read their books and look for answers to the questions on the whiteboard. They should take notes on a piece of paper. Students should use those notes to write a short essay about the person. The essay should answer the five questions on the whiteboard. Give students time to read and write. Then collect the essays at the end of class.

Evaluation

Use the following system to give each student up to 15 points:

- 5 points for answering the questions on the whiteboard
- 5 points for writing that is clear and easy to follow
- 5 points for using correct spelling and grammar

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.1), writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.2, 4.4, 4.8), and the National Council for the Social Studies standard 4.