

What's with NFL Team Nicknames?

Field Trip/Distance Learning Program



Instructions:

Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.

"Field Trip/Distance Learning" Experience Outline:

5 minutes – Welcome

20 minutes – Discussion on Team Histories and Nicknames

10 minutes – History Video

15 minutes – Question and Answers



Subject: Geography and History

Lesson Title: What's with NFL Team Nicknames?

Goals/Objectives:

- Students will understand the relationship between a team's history, geography and its NFL nickname.

National Standards met:

- **Geography:** 4-The Physical and Human Characteristics of Places
- **History:** 1-Chronological Thinking; 2-Historical Comprehension; 3-Historical Analysis and Interpretation

Methods/Procedures:

Pre-Visit Activity

- Before the "field trip or distance learning" experience, students will examine the nickname of each NFL team.
- Students should go to the following website:
<http://www.profootballhof.com/history/nicknames.jsp>
- Students should read each of the descriptions and in a class discussion decide which nicknames have a connection with their current city either historically, culturally, socially, etc. The students then should create a list of those cities with a direct connection with their nickname and those that do not. They should bring this list to their visit.

Visit Goals/Objectives

- During the "field trip or distance learning" experience, students will learn more about the NFL team histories and nicknames.
- Students will examine team nicknames and discuss why teams were awarded those nicknames. Some team nicknames have a connection with the history and/or geography of the area and some were just awarded as a result of a fan poll.
- Students will examine team histories and how many teams are deeply woven into their city's history.
- Students will examine priceless artifacts from the Hall's collection pertaining to NFL team histories.

Post-Visit Activity

- After the "field trip or distance learning" experience, the teacher will divide students into groups and assign each group a team whose nickname does not have a connection with its city.



- Students will complete an analysis of the history of that city, by examining their political, economic and social histories.
- Students should examine the geography of the city by examining its physiographic features (rivers, lakes, mountains, etc).
- Students should examine the cultural aspects of the city.
- Students will decide on a new nickname for this team based on history and / or geography of the city and they can NOT use any nickname currently used by another sports team. Students can use the Internet and the library for this research. Here is a list of questions to give the students:
 - A) What is the state bird?
 - B) What were the city's significant historical events?
 - C) What is the major economic activity in the city?
 - D) Who are the major political figures in the city?
- Students will create a poster presentation using sources that explain their decision for the new nickname. For example:
 - Arizona Cardinals
 - Arizona "Scorpions"
 - Arizona "Cacti"
 - Arizona "Deserts"
 - Arizona "Grand Canyons"

Materials:

- Access to the Internet
- Access to Census web site at <http://www.profootballhof.com/history/nicknames.jsp>
- Paper and writing tool
- Poster board

Assessment:

- Students will deliver a poster presentation on the reasoning behind their new nickname for the team.
- The teacher can use a rubric to score each poster presentation.



Poster Project

Scoring Sheet –Poster Presentation

Poster Creators' Last Names: _____

Data Accuracy and Understanding

/25 pts

- Poster covers concepts and background related to topic
- Material is on topic and correct

Aesthetics

/15 pts

- Balance
- Unity
- Neatness
- General Design

Communication

/10 pts

- Explanation of the project
- Ability to present to and answer questions from the class

Total = /50 pts

