

What's with NFL Team Nicknames?

Field Trip/Video Conference Program



"Field Trip/Video Conference" Experience Outline:

10 minutes – Welcome/Mission/Vision/Values

30 minutes – Discussion/Videos on Team Nicknames and Histories

10 minutes – Question and Answers

Instructions:

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



Subject: Geography, History and Technology

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:** The World in Spatial Terms; Places and Regions; Human Systems
- **US History K-4th Grade:** Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago; The History of Students' Own State or Region
- **US History 5th-12th Grade:** Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930); Era 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945); Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s); Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968-Present)
- **Technology:** Basic Operations and Concepts; Technology Communication Tools; Technology Research Tools

Methods/Procedures:

Prior to Program

- Students will:
 - Examine the nickname of each NFL team. To do so visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame's website at: <http://www.profootballhof.com/news/franchise-nicknames/>
 - 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 connection/visit.
 - Compile a list of questions to be asked during the program.

During the Program

- Students will:
 - Learn about the Mission/Vision/Values of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
 - 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.



- Students will complete the “What’s With NFL Team Nicknames?” worksheet provided (pages 4-5). Students can use this information during their post-program activity.

After the Program

- 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. To give students some direction here is a list of possible questions for the students to research information:
 - 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?
 - E) What major landmarks are in the city?
- Students will present their chosen nickname using sources that explain their decision for the new nickname (PowerPoint, show board, student Wiki, etc). For example: Arizona Cardinals, Arizona “Scorpions”, Arizona “Cacti”, Arizona “Deserts”, Arizona “Grand Canyons”

Materials:

- Profootballhof.com
- Paper and writing tool
- Worksheet (pages 4-5)
- Scoring Sheet (page 6)
- Presentation medium:
 - Show board
 - PowerPoint
 - Prezi

Assessment:

- Students will deliver a presentation on the reasoning behind their new nickname for the team. Visual aid could be used such as PowerPoint, written report, show board, student wiki, etc.
- The teacher can use a rubric to score each poster presentation.



Student's Name: _____

What's With NFL Team Nicknames? Summary Sheet

Give five facts reported in the presentation?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What did you learn from the presentation?



Scoring Sheet – Presentation

Creators' Last Names: _____

Data Accuracy and Understanding

/25 pts

- Presentation 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

