

Milton Hershey and His Times

Grade Level— 6-8

Standards—

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History:

8.1.6A, 8.1.9A, 8.1.6B, 8.1.9B, 8.1.6C, 8.1.9C, 8.2.9A, 8.2.9C, 8.2.9D, 8.3.9A, 8.3.9C, 8.3.9D

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening:

1.1.8G, 1.2.8A, 1.2.8B, 1.4.8B, 1.5.8A, 1.5.8B, 1.5.8C, 1.5.8D, 1.6.8A, 1.6.8C, 1.6.8D, 1.6.8E, 1.8.8B

Materials Needed—

- Poster Board
- Computers for internet research

Teacher Background—

In this lesson students will research and create a timeline of major events in Milton Hershey's life and major events in the world during his life. Students will gain an understanding of chronology and be able to place Milton Hershey's life within a historic time period. The information gained from this lesson will be valuable in providing students a general background to the life and times of Milton Hershey prior to their visit to *The Hershey Story*.

Essential Questions— (Post these questions in a visible location in your classroom)

What events were happening in the world during Milton Hershey's life?

What were examples of leadership that Milton Hershey displayed during his life?

Activating Strategies—

Step 1—As students enter the classroom have them respond to whether they agree or disagree with the following quote: "Great leaders are ones who change the world for the better."

Step 2—Have students share their responses with a partner.

Step 3—Discuss the quote and responses as a class. Be sure to explain that leaders, like Milton Hershey, are not just affected by events in their world, but they also effect events.

Step 4—Explain that as partners the class will be researching and creating an illustrated timeline of the major events in Milton Hershey’s life. One side of the timeline will be events from the personal/professional history of Milton Hershey, and the other side of the line will be major events that took place in the world during Milton Hershey’s life (1857—1945). By completing this lesson students will be able to determine if Milton Hershey was a great leader.

Teaching Strategies—

Step 1—After grouping students into pairs explain that one student will research Milton Hershey’s life and take notes on dates of his major accomplishments. The other student will research major events in the world that took place during Milton Hershey’s lifetime (1857—1945).

Step 2—Once each student has found between 5 to 10 events they should get together to plan the creation of their timeline. *Teachers may set individualized guidelines and expectations for the timelines.*

Step 3—Students work to create a timeline.

Step 4—After the timelines are created, have the students place their timelines in an orderly fashion around the classroom. Have the students walk around the room to review all of the timelines (Gallery Walk)

Step 5—As a class discuss the major events that happened during Milton Hershey’s lifetime (ex-American Civil War, World War I, Great Depression, etc.) Choose an event and discuss how it may have impacted Milton Hershey.

Step 6—As a class discuss the major personal and professional events in Milton Hershey’s life (ex-selling the Lancaster Caramel Company, building the Hershey Chocolate factory, starting the Hershey Industrial School, etc.) Choose an event and discuss how Milton Hershey displayed great leadership skills. Connect discussion with the opening quotation: “Great leaders are ones who change the world for the better.”

Step 7—Have students write an answer for the two essential questions before they leave class.

Summerizing Strategies—

1. Timeline
2. Gallery Walk
3. Class Discussion
4. Answer to the essential questions