

Town Planning the Hershey Way

Grade Levels – 9-12

Standards

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History: 8.1.12. B, 8.2.12. A, 8.2.12. B, 8.2.12. D, 8.3.12. A., 8.3.12. B, 8.3.12. D.

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing Speaking and Listening: 1.1.11 G, 1.1.11. D, 1.1.8.B,

Materials Needed –

- Blank Graph Paper
- Letter to students inviting them to the construction of a town
- Colored Pencils, Crayons
- Copies of this website - http://www.hersheypa.com/town_of_hershey/history/

Teacher Background –

This lesson is intended to enrich your students' visit to *The Hershey Story*. It seeks to illustrate the difficulties in planning a successful town from scratch the way Milton Hershey did. During this lesson, students will identify the order in which Hershey constructed the buildings in his town, engage in a debate that argues the merits of constructing some types of building over other types, and plan a town that incorporates what the students learned in their discussion. This lesson will take approximately 80 minutes of class time to complete.

Lesson Plan

Essential Question –
<i>What challenges face town planners like Milton Hershey?</i>
Vocabulary – (Have these words and their definitions posted in your classroom)
1. Urban Planning 2. Prioritizing
Activating Strategies –

Step 1 – Pass out the article about Milton Hershey and the history of his town.

Step 2 – Ask your students to read the article.

Step 3 – Divide your students into pairs.

Step 4 – Ask each pair grouping to discuss make a chronological order of the types of structures that were built in Hershey's town.

Step 5 – Ask your students to identify patterns in the construction of the structures in Hershey.

Step 6 – Ask your students to share their responses with the class.

Teaching Strategies –

Step 1 – Prepare and pass out a letter to your students inviting them to construct a plan for the creation of a new community.

Sample –

Dear Students –

A wealthy businessman has just purchased land to build a new town. He would like your help to make sure that town has everything that people need to be happy. The businessman has decided that he will build 15 buildings per year. Once you have decided the order in which the buildings should be constructed, please create a model of the town to show people who are considering building houses or businesses in the community.

Step 2 – Ask each pair of students to create a list of 10 types of buildings that a new town should have, stress to the students the need for buildings that are residential, commercial, and needed for infrastructure or recreation.

Step 3 – Ask your students to share their ideas in a brainstorm on your classroom's front board. Be sure to write down each new idea. Continue until you have 20 – 30 different types of structures listed.

Step 4 – Ask your student pair groups to make a new list of buildings from the brainstorm in the front of the room. This time, instruct them to make the list in order of importance and have the list contain 15 types of buildings.

Step 5 – Tell your students to consider the fact that the first year, the new town will only have 15 buildings, and the year after it will only have 30 buildings. Ask your students to consider the following ideas... Invite students to debate these questions in pairs and to change their lists if new information presents itself.

- Where will your citizens live?

- What type of work will your citizens do?
- Is there a place for them to learn?
- What will your citizens do for fun?
- Where will the government buildings be?
- Who will make sure that your citizens follow the rules?
- What happens if there is an emergency in your town?

Step 6 – Now instruct your students to think about how the different building may fit together. Ask them to consider and debate the following:

- Does your town have roads? Who maintains them?
- Will your town have electricity or water? Who will fix downed lines and broken pipes?
- Are there any buildings that should be near each other? (Libraries and schools, houses and grocery stores)
- Are there any buildings that should be kept apart (Jails and schools, sewage treatment plants and houses)

Step 7 – Ask your students to re-examine the lesson essential question. Ask them to answer the question before they leave.

Summarizing Strategies:

Ask your students to create a model for the town they have just planned. The model should include the first 15 buildings on the list they created in class. Students will use graph paper and should incorporate what they learned from the day's discussions