

Latinos in Heritage Conservation Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan Title: Resurrecting History: Unveiling the Mexican Heritage at Texas' Rediscovered Cemetery

Subject: Mexican American History, historic preservation

Grade level: 5th

Lesson duration: 60 minutes

Lesson objectives:

1. Students will remember and understand important facts about Mexican American heritage and historic preservation discussed in previous lessons (Celebrating Mexican American Heritage: Exploring Culture, Contributions, and Identity and Preserving Our Past: Understanding the Significance of Historic Preservation).
2. Students will apply this knowledge to the Cedar Creek Cemetery site and analyze the importance of its preservation.
3. Students will create their own Día de los Muertos ofrenda, allowing them to participate in a Mexican American tradition.

TEKS/National Standards:









TEKS 113.16.20; 113.16.25; 117.117.3

NA-VA.5-8.4 UNDERSTANDING THE VISUAL ARTS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND CULTURES



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Procedure:	<p>1. Introduction (5 minutes): Students will read along with the teacher as they read aloud the “A Call to Action” section in the Cedar Creek Tool kit.</p> <p>2. Recall and Connect (15 minutes): Guided Discussion linking back to importance of historic preservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Think back to our lesson on historic preservation. Why is historic preservation important? - How can we relate historic preservation to the Cedar Creek cemetery? - What happens when no one cares about sites like these? - Why is it important to save a site like a cemetery? - The people in this cemetery are of Mexican descent. Think back to our discussion on Mexican heritage. Are there any customs or celebrations that may relate to the Cedar Creek cemetery? <p>- Show students BrainPop! video on Día de los Muertos. (7 minutes)</p> <p>- Continue discussion to set up activity (5-8 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss how celebrations of those who have passed can be a joyous occasion. - What are the elements to this celebration?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher will guide students into discussing an ofrenda. - What is the importance of an ofrenda and Dia de los Muertos to the Cedar Creek cemetery? <p>3. Class Activity (30 minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explain to students that they will be building an ofrenda for anyone they'd like to honor on their desk (this can be a family member, friend, pet, famous person, etc.). - Have students inform you of who they are choosing. If possible, print their pictures out for the students. Students may also draw pictures if they prefer. - Pass out supplies so that students can make papel picados. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walk students through the process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - layer tissue paper together and fold in half several times as if you were making a paper snowflake. - students will cut shapes along the sides, but not where the folds are. - students will then unfold the tissue paper and connect it to the yarn. - Encourage students to bring in items over the course of the week to add to the ofrendas. - On the last day of the week, have each student share their ofrenda and explain a little about the person they chose to honor.
<p>Activities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Introduction (5 minutes) B. Recall and Connect (25 minutes) C. Class Activity (30 minutes)
<p>Materials/equipment:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Copies of Tool Kit introduction to Cedar Creek Cemetery  Internet access for BrainPOP  Colored tissue paper  Scissors  Markers  Construction paper  Yarn  Tape



References:

Latinos in Heritage Conservation: Historic Preservation Toolkit

Día de los Muertos BrainPOP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0CmjpMBz0k>

BrainPOP “Build an Ofrenda” <https://educators.brainpop.com/lesson-plan/day-of-the-dead-lesson-plan-build-an-ofrenda/>

The Mexican Museum, “Día de los Muertos,” <https://www.mexicanmuseum.org/dia-de-los-muertos>

National Geographic “Top 10 things to know about Day of the Dead”

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/top-ten-day-of-dead-mexico>

The Mexican Museum “Día de los Muertos” <https://www.mexicanmuseum.org/dia-de-los-muertos>

Vanderbilt University, Center for Latin American Studies, Curriculum Resources for El Día de los Muertos, <https://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas-resources/topic.php?id=1>

Additional Information:

The Mexican Museum’s “Día de los Muertos” article has a video demonstrating how to make the papel picados, which would be a good resource for the teacher to view ahead of time. Alternatively, the teacher may also show this video to their students. Other videos on this webpage may also be of good use to increase student knowledge.

