

Full Steam Ahead

By: Faye Gibbons

Teacher: Hannah Williams Holmes, Dean Road Elementary School, Auburn, Alabama

Grade Level: 3

Content Areas: Reading and Social Studies

Description: During this lesson, the teacher will read aloud Faye Gibbons' book, Full Steam Ahead, then discuss with the students how modern inventions have impacted the world we live in.

Timeline: 1 hour (extension activities will require more time)

Goals: The students will be able to identify some modern inventions such as automobiles, trains, computers, and telephones. The students will begin to understand how these modern inventions impact lives and have changed the world.

Links to Curriculum Standards:

Alabama Course of Study Reading Objectives:

- Apply a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and construct meaning from print materials.
- Demonstrate literal understanding of print material.
- Use literary analysis.
- Apply strategies of a skillful listener.
- Relate to the experiences and feelings of literary characters.

Alabama Course of Study Social Studies Objectives:

- Describe the relationship between locations of resources and patterns of population distribution in the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe present day mechanization of labor as opposed to the historical use of human labor to harvest natural resources.
- Evaluating the geographic impact of using major energy and technological resources in the 21st century.

Information Literacy Objective:

- Draw a conclusion based on information gathered.

Guiding Questions:

During reading:

- What similarities and differences do you notice about the setting of this story and where we live?
- Are they using machines to harvest the cotton or are they using human labor?
- What does that tell you about when this story took place?
- Why do you think Sammy and the others are so excited about the train coming?

After reading:

- We know that Sammy was excited to see the steam engine come through because they had never seen that before. In those days the steam engine was a modern invention. How do you think the steam engine changed people's lives?
- Did it make life easier or harder? How?
- What are some examples of modern inventions?
- Do these modern inventions make life simpler or more complicated? Explain.

Assessment:

- Students will compile a list of modern inventions (telephone, microwave, computer, Nintendo gaming systems, etc.). – Assessment through teacher observation
- Students will have an opportunity to take part in a research activity in which they will gather information about a modern invention or an inventor and will compile this information into a written report or a visual presentation using Power Point. During this research activity, the students will be provided with a checklist to guide their research. This checklist will explain the information they must find and the information that must be included in the presentation or report. This checklist will also include all other details that must be included such as number of sentences in written report or number of facts/slides in the visual report. – Assessment through teacher grading

Learning Connections:

The students should be able to name a few inventions (telephone, television, computer, etc.) prior to lesson. ESL students may have difficulty identifying these inventions, but the teacher could supply pictures of modern inventions to supplement for those non - English-speaking students.

Curriculum Connections:

After reading the story, Full Steam Ahead, the teacher should tell the students that this author is from Alabama. The teacher can then share the author's hometown and assist the students with finding this town on the Alabama state map. The students could then determine which geographic region the author lives in.

Learning Activities:

- The students will listen as the teacher reads the story aloud.
- The students will answer comprehension questions from the story.
- The students will participate in a discussion of similarities and differences between the story setting and our hometown.
- The students will participate in a discussion of inventions.
- The students will create a list of modern inventions.
- The students will determine if modern inventions make life simpler or more complicated.
- The students will complete a research activity in which they will visit the media center and use the resources there (encyclopedias, online information sources, and reference books) to gather information and compile these facts into a written report or a visual presentation of their chosen modern invention or inventor.

Teaching Strategies:

- The teacher will read aloud.
- The teacher will promote discussions among students.
- The students will participate in discussions and list making.
- Some students will use technology when creating their visual presentation of their research topic. (modern invention or inventor)
- The teacher will use technology when showing pictures of modern inventions on the Smart Board.

Management:

- The students will listen to the teacher read aloud in a designated reading center. (Reading circle, reading corner, etc.)
- Students with special needs have access to the reading circle and have ample room for emergency exits.

Materials and Resources:

The teacher will need the book, Full Steam Ahead, by Faye Gibbons.

The teacher and students will need access to the media center as well as encyclopedias and other reference books and information sources.

The teacher would benefit from access to a Smart Board to display pictures of modern inventions.