

Locating Alabama Counties

Teacher Name: Susan Young, Barbour County Primary School

Grade level: 4

Content Areas: Social Studies

Description/Abstract: Read Kathryn Tucker Windham's Alabama ghost stories, locate the counties on an Alabama state map, retell a story

Timeline: Up to one week

Goals/Content and Cognitive:

Students will identify Kathryn Tucker Windham as an Alabama author. Students will use the online resource "This Goodly Land: Alabama's Literary Landscape" (www.alabamaliterarymap.org) to locate information about Kathryn Tucker Windham. Students will locate counties within the state of Alabama. Students will retell Kathryn Tucker Windham ghost stories.

Links to Curriculum Standards:

Alabama State Course of Study for Social Studies (www.alsde.edu/html/sections/):

Fourth grade - 1. Identify historical and current economic, political and geographic information about Alabama on thematic maps.

Information Literacy objectives. *Literacy Partners: A Principal's Guide to and Effective Library Media program for the 21st Century*. Alabama State Department of Education, (2000) "Appendix B K-12 Information Objectives."

(<http://www.alsde.edu/general/LiteracyPartners.pdf>)

Fourth grade - apply a map skill, and read or recite aloud as part of a group performance.

Guiding Questions:

Who is Kathryn Tucker Windham?

How do I use a map to locate where stories took place?

How do I retell a story?

Assessment:

Students will create a poster showing who Kathryn Tucker Windham is. Students will locate on a state map the county in which their chosen ghost story took place. Students will retell their chosen ghost story to the class. Students will be assessed on accuracy of story sequence and inclusion of beginning, at least three events in rising action, climax, and ending.

Learning Connections:

This lesson can be used as a culmination activity for a unit of Alabama Counties taught in Alabama History. Students will use "This Goodly Land: Alabama's Literary Landscape" (www.alabamaliterarymap.org) and other resources to learn about Kathryn Tucker Windham. Retelling the ghost stories will demonstrate students' understanding of the

story and help the students master beginning, middle and end of story elements (telling the story in correct sequence).

Learning Activities or Tasks:

Students will write the county names on a blank Alabama state map. Students will use “This Goodly Land” and other resources to locate information about Kathryn Tucker Windham. Discuss findings as a class. Students will use the books *Thirteen Alabama Ghost Stories and Jeffrey* and *Jeffrey's Latest 13: More Alabama Ghosts* by Kathryn Tucker Windham to select one ghost story (students may work in groups). Students will read the story and plan how to read or retell the story to the class. As each group presents their story to the class, they will begin by telling what county the story takes place in and identify the correct county on a large state map by placing a small cut-out of a ghost with the name of the ghost in their story written on it. Students will color the correct county on their state map.

Teaching Strategies:

Introduce “This Goodly Land” and show students how to use it to locate information. Assist students as they use this site and other resources to locate information about Kathryn Tucker Windham. Lead a class discussion on what they learned about her. Review counties in Alabama. Display large state map, distribute individual blank state map outline with counties. Assist students as they label each county. Assist as students form groups and select a ghost story. Guide students as they collaborate to determine how they will present their story to the class. (Possibilities - read aloud, retell, act out) Provide checklist of what students are expected to do when giving an oral presentation. Video-tape student presentations. As a group, review presentations, discuss strengths and weaknesses.

Management:

Students will work in groups in the classroom and outside the classroom. Students with reading difficulties will be paired with students with high reading ability in order to assist with research and story reading. Students may work individually or in groups. Author reports will be completed based on ability and interest. Reports may be posters, PowerPoint, written, oral, or other method approved by the teacher. Students will visit the library to research Kathryn Tucker Windham. Students will use “This Goodly Land,” other electronic resources, and print resources.

Materials and Resources:

Access to computers in lab, library, or classroom;
Books - *Thirteen Alabama Ghost Stories and Jeffrey*, and *Jeffrey's Latest 13: More Alabama Ghosts* by Kathryn Tucker Windham;
Large state map of Alabama showing counties, individual state map outline showing outline of counties;
Ghost cutouts;
Materials for author reports and presentations;
Video equipment to record and show presentation.

Parents will be asked to assist students as they work on their presentations and reports at home.

Lesson Evaluation and Teacher Reflection:

Questions:

Was this lesson worth doing?

In what ways was this lesson effective?

What evidence do you have for your conclusion?

How would you change this lesson for teaching it again?

What did you observe your students doing and learning?

Did your students find the lesson meaningful and worth completing?