

Lesson Title: Native Americans in Adams County, WI – Taylor Brothers Photographs
Grades: 7-12

Theme Area: La Follette and the Progressive Era

Standards: History: B.8.1, B.8.4, B.8.10, B.8.11, B.12.1, B.12.2, B.12.5, B.12.12

Introduction/Background

The Ho-Chunk nation was originally called the Winnebago, which is remembered in street names, a county, and towns throughout Wisconsin. Many Ho-Chunk lived in Adams County and these photographs were taken there by the Taylor Brothers in the early 20th Century (between 1910 and 1930). The Decorahs were a well-known Ho-Chunk family, many of the Decorah men acted as chief over the years.

Students should research the Ho-Chunk and the Decorahs to see what they can find out about the tribe, such as where they lived, what their lives were like, etc. One place to do this at “Turning Points in Wisconsin History” at the Wisconsin Historical Society site. Students can also use encyclopedias to find out more about the Ho-Chunk.

Lesson Objective(s):

Students will be able to:

1. Analyze photographs of members of the Ho-Chunk nation as primary sources
2. Research background material about the Ho-Chunk nation, lifestyles in the early 20th century in central Wisconsin, and specific members of the tribe such as the Decorahs and Luke Eagle
3. Make inferences about the lifestyle and culture of the Ho-Chunk nation

Information Sources/Resources:

► For background information on the Ho-Chunk go to the following website or go to Turning Points in Wisconsin History and search “Ho-Chunk.” You can also use encyclopedias. <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints>

► Dictionary of Wisconsin History: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary>

► Encyclopedia Britannica online

► Ho-Chunk Nation website: <http://www.ho-chunknation.com/about.htm>

► Ho-Chunk history: http://www.ho-chunknation.com/heritage/culture_history_page.htm

Materials

Computers with Internet connection for small groups of students (could do this with an instructor computer and an LCD) or Print out the photos to give to groups of students and encyclopedias and US history textbook.

Suggested Activities

1. This lesson can take as long or as short as you want. The ideal time would be two shorter periods (40 minutes each) or one long (about an hour) class period. You can also break students up into groups to work cooperatively (if the number of computers is small, this might be best) or as a large group.
2. Go to the Taylor Brothers photographic collection at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI.TaylorBros> and select Search the Collection, then enter the search term Indians of North America and limit your search to the Taylor Brothers subcollection. You will get 43 records. You can either select the photos you want to use ahead of time or let students choose the photos they want to analyze. (It depends on what you want your students to learn.)
3. Interesting photos include: Emma Decorah (much can be learned about what she is wearing and her adornments; for information about jewelry see the Ho-Chunk website on the About page); any of the pictures of children; in a wagon at Babcock, WI (students can locate the places where the Ho-Chunk lived on a map of WI); Luke Eagle; On the Indian reservation near Cranmoor, WI; portrait of a girl in native finery on the reservation entitled, "Pretty little Indian"; studio portrait of two women; "Running Elk, the champion Winnebago runner"; a family portrait; portrait of Anna Decorah.
4. You can use a graphic organizer or worksheet with questions to guide students' analysis.
5. Circulate around the room monitoring students' progress and answering questions. Often one group will find something that might be helpful to the rest of the class.
6. When students seem to be finished, discuss what they found out as a large group using the questions from the worksheet as a guide.

Glossary

Ho-Chunk, Native American, tribe, reservation, Winnebago, clan

Conclusion

By analyzing photographs of the Ho-Chunk nation, students will learn about the culture of one Native American tribe in Wisconsin and what they valued. They will also explain some of the attitudes of white Wisconsinites toward Native Americans in the early 20th century.

Assessment

Conduct a class discussion about the graphic organizer or the questions for the worksheet and students will show understanding by their participation.

Have students select one of the photos and assume the identity of the subject in the picture and write a short piece about the photo.

Additional Information

http://www.besthistorysites.net/USHistory_NativeAmerican.shtml

This is an excellent source for history sites on the Internet in general and this page has Native American sites.

Visit the Teaching with Documents page of the Nation Archives website where you can access a PDF of a worksheet that guides student through the analysis of photographs
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/index.html>