Location, Location, Location: Arizona and the Gadsden Purchase

Students learn why the Gadsden Purchase was important to Westward Expansion and the geographic, economic & political factors associated with the purchase.

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<th>National Geography Standards</th>
<th>Arizona Geography Standards</th>
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<td><strong>ELEMENT TWO: PLACES AND REGIONS</strong>&lt;br&gt;4. The Physical and Human Characteristics of Places</td>
<td><strong>Concept 2: Places and Regions</strong>&lt;br&gt;PO 2. Describe the factors (e.g. demographics, political systems, economic systems, resources, culture) that contribute to the variations between developing and developed regions.</td>
<td><strong>Strand 1: American History</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Concept 5: Westward Expansion</strong>&lt;br&gt;PO 1. Trace the growth of the American nation during the period of western expansion:&lt;br&gt;a. Northwest Territory&lt;br&gt;b. Louisiana Territory&lt;br&gt;c. Florida&lt;br&gt;d. Texas&lt;br&gt;e. Oregon Country&lt;br&gt;f. Mexican Cession&lt;br&gt;g. Gadsden Purchase&lt;br&gt;h. Alaska</td>
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<td><strong>Arizona Economics Standards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Concept 1: Foundations of Economics</strong>&lt;br&gt;PO 1. Analyze the implications of scarcity:&lt;br&gt;a. limited resources and unlimited human wants influence choice at individual, national, and international levels&lt;br&gt;b. factors of production (e.g., natural, human, and capital resources, entrepreneurship, technology)&lt;br&gt;c. marginal analysis by producers, consumers, savers, and investors</td>
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**Overview**

The Gadsden Purchase is an example of an Arizona connection to the period of American Westward Expansion. By studying the purchase, students gain insight into the political, geographic, and economic aspects important to various groups during this period of American history.

**Purpose**

In this lesson students will gain a better understanding of the Gadsden Purchase, its key role in Western Expansion, the events leading up to the transaction, its opposition and final ratification, and the benefits the purchase...
provided to Arizona and the southwestern United States.

Materials

- Computer and projection method
- Gadsden Purchase PowerPoint
- Vocabulary Practice
- Student Copy of Time Line Organizer and Answer Key
- Teacher Background Information: “Snapshot Timeline”
- Student Handout 1 (Time Line/Guided Lecture Notes) and Answer Key
- Student Handout 2 (Gadsden Purchase Treaty: December 30, 1853)
- Student Handout 3 (Student Activity Writing)
- Student Handout 4 (Economics Activity) and Answer Key
- Student Handout 5 (Gadsden Purchase Map)
- Student Handout 6 (Assessment) and Answer Key
- Map of Optional Boundary Lines as Conveyed to Gadsden
- Map of Gadsden Purchase of 1853

Objectives

The student will be able to:
1. Describe the primary reasons for the Gadsden Purchase and why it is important in Westward expansion.
2. Analyze the key economic, political, cultural, and resource benefits as a result of the Gadsden Purchase as well as why Mexico would sell their land.

Procedures

Prerequisite Skills: The vocabulary for this lesson may require prior preparation. Included in the lesson and the PowerPoint are key terms to learn. These could be given to target students (ELLS, SpEd, etc.) the day before the lesson so they could be more familiar with the terms.

Session One

Use the provided PowerPoint presentation to complete the procedures 1-6.

1. Bell work: Write down several reasons why some land (property) is more valuable than other land (property).
2. Essential Question: Why acquire more land?
3. Anticipatory set: Why would the United States want to purchase more land in the “desert” Southwest?
4. Review vocabulary terms that will be used in the lesson.
5. Distribute blank time line organizer for students to complete during power point presentation.
6. Distribute the Gadsden Treaty document. Students read aloud the document and add details to time line organizer.
7. Writing activity: Distribute Student Handout 3 (Student Activity Writing). Students will summarize Gadsden Purchase document and compose a press release that outlines the key benefits in a cost/benefit analysis concluding with economic and political support. This can be done as a homework assignment.

Session Two

8. Economics activity: Students compute the additional square miles and acres added and determine the cost per square miles and cost per acre. Students can adjust for inflation and reflect in today’s dollars using provided CPI (Consumer Price Index for 1854 and 2008) formulas.
9. Assessment: Use maps and student handouts to answer the discussion points on Student Handout 6 (Assessment). Students can word individually or in groups to complete the assessment.

Assessment

Assessment: Use maps and student handouts to answer the discussion points on Student Handout 6 (Assessment). Mastery will be considered 80% or higher on the writing assignment.

For a more challenging assessment, add this writing component:

Write a 1-page summary that reflects the correlation of the Gadsden Purchase Treaty to the politics of slavery, describes the economic opportunity costs, and gives the benefits of railroad transportation to the U.S.

Extensions

Civics (Government) classes may find several useful components to apply as appropriate in
areas of slavery issues, appropriations, filibuster, powers of the legislature and executive branches, and ratification.

Addition of Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories could culminate the Westward Expansion lesson.

Sources


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