

# Lesson Plan for Henrico 21

Lesson Title: Native News - What you need to know!

Target Grade/Subject: 6th Social Studies

Length: 5 class blocks

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## Summary:

Students created a news broadcast sharing the interactions between explorers and Native Americans. Each student group was assigned a tribe. Students had the freedom to design the broadcast to best deliver the content. Some students decided to present a live broadcast during class while others prerecorded their presentation. All students collaborated online and in class to complete the project.

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## Essential questions:

*What characteristics made the Native American tribes unique?*

*How did tribes and early European settlers interact?*

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## Lesson Development:

### Process/Tasks/Assessment:

Students previously completed a unit of study about various Native American tribes.

Students were divided into five groups. To ensure that all students were included and groups weren't lopsided with friends partnering together, the teacher arranged the groups. Each group was randomly assigned one of the five American Indian tribes discussed in class (Inuit, Kwakiutl, Pueblo, Lakota, and Iroquois)

The groups established roles for members of the group. Each member of the group was responsible for research and development of one of [6 news stories](#). It was necessary for students to conduct research above and beyond class notes to gain a complete understanding of various aspects of the tribe, especially interactions between other Native American tribes and Europeans settlers. Students also researched cultural aspects of tribal life including sports, rituals, and religion. Students used School Space Course Mail to communicate with their group members and share scripts. The group leader or "anchor" compiled all scripts.

Students decided on props they would need to create their newscast and shared responsibility for bringing items to class for a live broadcast or for assembling props at an alternate location to video record the newscast. Some groups used ActivInspire flipcharts or PowerPoint slides as accents or backgrounds during their broadcasts.

The teacher provided 5 days of class time over a four week period for groups to work together. Because each student was responsible for different areas of their group broadcast, the teacher acted as a facilitator emphasizing that students work on their research and development of their script. The teacher also provide a limited number of online resources and links to help students begin their research.

After group presentations were complete, the teacher discussed group dynamics with students. Students also completed a reflective survey concerning their personal effort on the project as well as group member contributions.

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## TIP Chart Assessment:

*(Using the TIP Chart, identify which level (e.g. entry, developing, approaching, ideal/target) your lesson falls in for each of the categories below and write a brief statement to describe what the students are doing as it relates to the indicators on the TIP chart.)*

Categories:

Research and Information Fluency: Ideal/Target - The teacher began by creating the opportunity for students to discover interesting and little taught facts about cultures that were once a large part of our continent. Students were engaged in the gathering of information and creation of an authentic, meaningful product.

Communication and Collaboration: Ideal/Target - The teacher created an environment where the students were able to communicate digitally with members of the team to enhance productivity of the group. Through facilitation by the teacher, students took the time to reflect on their roles as members of a team and give consideration to how their group functioned as a whole.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: While all strands of the TIPC are important and should be addressed, this lesson is focused on Creativity and Innovation. There are ways to increase the level of Critical Thinking and Problem Solving but they may not tie as closely to the learning outcomes focused on in this lesson.

Creativity and Innovation: Ideal/Target - The teacher created a stimulating and engaging environment focused on learning more about Native American tribes. Students created original broadcast programs. Several groups went beyond the minimal expectations to create engaging and fun stories.