

Overview

The focus of this lesson is to learn the origin of the name Kansas and to understand some basic facts about the Kansa Indians. The students will read expository text as well as perform basic original research to determine the origins of the name of their city or county. The lesson is designed to take place over two class periods but can be adjusted to meet individual classroom needs.

Standards

Current standards can be found on kshs.org.

Objectives

Content:

- The student will describe the origin of the name “Kansas.”
- The student will summarize details of the traditional lifestyle of the Kansa.
- The student will describe the origin of the name of his or her town or county.

Skills:

- The student will summarize information from expository text.
- The student will locate information from available resources.
- The student will write a paragraph.

Essential Questions

- Where do states, cities, and counties get their names?
- Why was the state named after the Kansa Indians?

Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- **Kansas: The 34th Star**
- **Meet the Kansa**

Day 1

- As a class read the **Kansas: The 34th Star** *Read Kansas* card. Discuss for whom the state of Kansas is named.
- Have each student read the **Meet the Kansa** *Read Kansas* card.
- Divide the class into pairs. Working together have the students reread the **Meet the Kansa** *Read Kansas* card. Using the **Meet the Kansa** graphic organizer, have the students write down four facts they learned about the Kansa. This can be directed by asking the students four questions. What did a Kansa house look like? What did the Kansa eat? What did Kansa boys do? What did Kansa girls do?

Day 2

- This day should focus on finding the origins of the name of your city or county. How this part of the lesson is structured depends upon what resources you have available.
- Once the students have located information on the name of their city or county, ask them to write a paragraph about the naming of their city or county.

Assessment

- Evaluate the students' ability to complete the **Meet the Kansa** graphic organizer.
- Evaluate the students' ability to research the origins of their city or county and retell that story in their own words.

For the Teacher

There are several places you can find information on the origin of the name of your city or county. There are two books that are helpful.

McCoy, Sandra Van Meter and Jan Hults. *1001 Kansas Place Names*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989.

Rydjord, John. *Kansas Place-Names*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972.

Some counties and cities have websites that give this information. Another option is to ask your county historical society for help.

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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Library of Congress

Name: _____

Meet the Kansa

