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Lesson Title: Appalachian Culture in Tennessee

Overview:

Students will gain an understanding of the unique culture of the people who lived in the Appalachian Mountains region of Tennessee in the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century through the use of primary source documents from the Volunteer Voices website.

Grade level: 6th to 8th

Era: 4 Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

Time period: 4 or 5 forty-five minute time blocks

Materials required:

- Internet access
- Copies of resources from Volunteer Voices website
- Various art materials including construction paper, markers, glue, scissors
- Digital camera

Curriculum Standards:

- 8.5.3-Students will recognize primary source documents and be able to state what a primary source document is.
- 8.5.11-Students will use primary source documents to describe different aspects of living in the Appalachian Mountains region of Tennessee from 1800 to 1950.
- 8.5.12-Students will, working in groups, create a scrapbook illustrating the daily life of a Tennessee Appalachian Mountains family.

Activities:

- Define primary and secondary sources and have students give examples of primary sources. Have examples on hand that students can examine. Explain that primary sources help students experience the past rather than just reading about the past.
- Divide students into five groups and assign group topics as follows: (Bold type represents the title of a primary source document from the Volunteer Voices website-www.volunteervoices.org)

Group 1, Family life

Mark Twain Family Cabin (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000516>

File Name: 0094_000050_000220_0000



Peters House and Homestead (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000522>

File Name: 0094_000050_000226_0000



Arnwine Cabin from Grainger County (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000518>

File Name: 0094_000050_000222_0000



The McClung House (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000519>

File Name: 0094_000050_000223_0000



Group 2, Work tools

Medicine carrying case (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000505>

File Name: 0094_000050_000209_0000



Hobart and Larry Hagoods Harness and Saddle Shop (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000515>

File Name: 0094_000050_000219_0000



Joe Diehl sawmill (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000523>

File Name: 0094_000050_000227_0000



Broad Ax made in Nashville (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000508>

File Name: 0094_000050_000212_0000



Bark grinding stone (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000521>

File Name: 0094_000050_000225_0000



Copper kettle (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000510>

File Name: 0094_000050_000214_0000



Group 3, Music

Banjo from Roane County, Tennessee (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000499>

File Name: 0094_000050_000203_0000



Beersheba Springs Fiddle and Bow (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000498>

File Name: 0094_000050_000202_0000



Two dulcimers (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000502>

File Name: 0094_000050_000206_0000



Two mandolins (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000504>

File Name: 0094_000050_000208_0000



A hammered dulcimer (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000503>

File Name: 0094_000050_000207_0000



Group 4, Products of Appalachia

Specifications on the mineral and forestry exhibit (from the Archives of Appalachia, ETSU)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200700000002621>

File Name: 0032_000054_000208_0000



Tobacco hogshead (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000509>

File Name: 0094_000050_000213_0000



Bailey family (in tobacco field) (from the Archives of Appalachia, ETSU)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=2007000000002047>

File Name: 0032_000050_000208_0000



Beehive from Carter County, Tennessee (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000513>

File Name: 0094_000050_000217_0000



Beehive from Knox County, Tennessee (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000514>

File Name: 0094_000050_000218_0000



Cornfield (from the Archives of Appalachia, ETSU)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=2007000000002049>

File Name: 0032_000050_000210_0000



Group 5, Rural life in Appalachia

General store (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000511>

File Name: 0094_000050_000215_0000



Tater Valley Schoolhouse (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000520>

File Name: 0094_000050_000224_0000



Wilson Barn from Union County, Tennessee (from the Museum of Appalachia)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200800000000517>

File Name: 0094_000050_000221_0000



Above the clouds, Roane Mountain (from the Archives of Appalachia, ETSU)

URL: <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=2007000000002038>

File Name: 0032_000052_000200_0000



Have copies of each of the primary sources or allow students sufficient time to view them on the Volunteer Voices website. Instruct each group to discuss what is represented in their set of sources and then make a list of what they know about each item beginning with what the item is; i.e., a document, a photograph, an artifact. Also, they should list anything about the item that they don't understand or that they have a question about. Use the following list of questions to guide their discussion.

- What is the item?
- Who may have created it or who may have owned it or used it?
- Why was it important during the time it was created/used?
- Was it used for work, for fun, at home, preparing a meal, etc.? What type of work?
- Why is this item important today?

When students have thoroughly examined their set of primary sources, instruct each group to create their own artifact to illustrate some part of the daily life of an Appalachian family; i.e., the mountain people made their own musical instruments so that group could create a facsimile of a unique musical instrument and model how it would be played and what sound it would make.

The tools group could create a new tool and state what it would be used for. Supplies would have to be furnished for their creations.

After each group has created their artifact, each should be photographed and the photographs compiled into a family scrapbook. Notations should be added to identify the item and the time period. Each group should decorate and edit their scrapbook pages.

Evaluation:

Have each student select a source that they have not seen and evaluate that item per a set of guidelines.