

Land of Opportunity - Colonization

Created:	07/01/2017	Type of Contribution:	Lesson/Project
Last Modified:	07/18/2017	Technology Needed:	LCD projector, Computer Lab
Class Time:	2-3 days of instruction		

Summary:

Is America the land of opportunity? Use this lesson to conclude a unit on colonization in an American history course. Students will apply research skills and knowledge to support their reasoning.

Teacher Instructions:



Use this lesson to conclude a unit on colonization in order to gain a better understanding that there is more than one side to a historical event while exploring American's slogan as "The Land of Opportunity".

- Post Chapter 52, [Eyeball of the Beholder](#) (attached) from [The 60-Second Philosopher](#) in Google Classroom. **TIP:** Copies of the Chapter could also be distributed if computers aren't available.
- In order to ensure student understanding, have students write the main idea of the chapter in a sentence or two. Ask students to then turn and talk with their tablemates about what they have written down. Each table will combine their ideas about the author's main idea and write their sentence or two on the board for all to see.
- Discuss the meaning of perception as a class by utilizing optical illusions. **TIP:** Several examples of [face illusions](#) are available but any optical illusion you feel is appropriate could be used. Select the images you want to use and either post them in Google Classroom or project them on the board. **TIP:** Use different illusion images for each class. I know my students like to share what they did with the next class and it may change the outcome of the class discussion.

- Ask: What do you see?
If you look at it differently, can you see something else?
Why do people see things differently?
- After gaining a better understanding of perception, create a definition together as a class and place it on the board. Ask students to give examples of things that people sometimes perceive differently.
- Hand each table the [As I See It T-chart](#) (attached). Explain that even in history people perceive things differently. Have the students use the As I See It T-chart to examine the perspective of Native Americans and English colonists during the time of colonization. **TIP:** Students should use their textbook and reliable sources to better understand why each group lived where they lived. **TIP:** Circulate around the room to listen in on conversations and ask clarification questions to ensure that groups are staying on task.
- With about 10 minutes left in class, have students post their thoughts in Google Classroom on the compelling question, "Is America the land of opportunity?"

Revisit the question, "Is America the land of opportunity?" throughout the entire American history course. Some suggested periods to revisit the question would be after Revolutionary War, Manifest Destiny, Reconstruction, World War I, World War II, Civil Rights Movement, etc. As students learn more about events in history and various perspectives, their reasoning and answer should also evolve.

Resources:

Adamovic, Jan. "Face Illusions." *BrainDen.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 July 2017.

Pessin, Andrew. "Eyeball of the Beholder." *The 60-second Philosopher: Expand Your Mind on a Minute or so a Day!* Oxford: Oneworld, 2009. 108-109. Print.

Image

Black, Simon. *America: Land of Opportunity*. Digital image. *Sovereign Man*. Blacksmith Global Ltd, n.d. Web. 1 July 2017.