

Teaching About Vietnam Through Technology Lessons

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Project Description: This unit of study is designed for Technology lessons for grades 2-5 in Haslett Public Schools, connecting the five themes of geography with the study of Vietnam.

Five Themes of Geography are part of the Social Studies curriculum for Grades 2-5. The five themes and essential questions for geography are:

Theme 1 - Location: Where is it?

Theme 2 - Place: What makes a place different from other places?

Theme 3 - Movement: How are people and places connected?

Theme 4 - Human/Environment Interaction: How do people interact with the environment?

Theme 5 - Regions: What makes it like other areas?

Social studies standards

Standard II.1 Diversity of People, Places, and Cultures	All students will describe, compare, and explain the locations and characteristics of places, cultures, and settlements.
Standard II.2 Human/Environment Interaction	All students will describe, compare, and explain the locations and characteristics of ecosystems, resources, human adaptation, environmental impact, and the interrelationships among them.
Standard II.3 Location, Movement, and Connections	All students will describe, compare, and explain the locations and characteristics of economic activities, trade, political activities, migration, information flow, and the interrelationships among them.
Standard II.4 Regions, Patterns, and Processes	All students will describe and compare characteristics of ecosystems, states, regions, countries, major world regions, and patterns and explain the processes that created them.

Theme One: LOCATION

Students will learn about Vietnam for its specific location (longitude and latitude) and distance from home. Students will also use map skills comparing the United States and adjacent countries to Vietnam and adjacent countries.

Lesson One: How far is it?

Grades: 4 and 5

Class Sessions: two 45 minute lessons

Invite students to use this website: www.indo.com/distance. Students can calculate the distance between two places. This database includes information for locations from around the world

After initial exploration time with this website, have students find distances between their hometown and cities in Michigan, throughout the United States, in other countries, and finally, cities in Vietnam.

Instruct students on making a table in a Word document, 4 columns, several rows. A sample table is shown below. Invite students to predict distances, then use the website to get information about distances. Finally, students can use calculators to determine the travel time between two cities.

How Far Is It?			
Lansing to ---	Prediction	Actual Distance	If you were in a car traveling at 60 mph, how long would it take?
Grand Rapids, MI	60 miles	59 miles	1 hour
Mackinac City, MI	150 miles	203 miles	3 ½ hours
Chicago, IL			
Denver, CO			
Los Angeles, CA			
Tokyo, Japan			
Hanoi, Vietnam			

Lesson Two: The Shape of the World

Grade: 2

Class sessions: one 45 minute lesson

Teacher preparation: visit Google.com—Images. Save maps of several countries, including the United States and Vietnam. (Enchantedlearning.com is a reliable source for outline maps). Make these maps available for students by placing them in a file on the district's network.

Begin by showing students a map of Michigan and then inviting them to draw in the air. Next, show a map of the United States, Vietnam, and several more countries. Invite students to draw each in the air.

Next, demonstrate the Paint program so that students can draw the shapes of the maps, then save to their files. (Programs—Accessories—Paint). Help students understand similarities to Kid Pix.

Finally, have students open Power Point and insert two maps on each slide—the map from the map file and the student’s drawing of each country.

Lesson Three: Map Puzzles

Grade: 2

Class sessions: two 45 minute lessons

Using the outline images from your map file or student-drawn pictures (from Paint or KidPix program) of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, invite students draw mountain ranges, major rivers, and other landforms. Next, have students cut out the countries and place the maps together, completing the puzzle. Ask: “Do you notice rivers, mountains, other physical characteristics that stretch from one country to another?”

Next, invite students to repeat this activity using maps of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and China. Engage students in conversation to make inferences about their map puzzle pieces.

Theme Two: PLACE

Students will learn about Vietnam and its climate, physical features, people, and traditions.

Lesson One: My Book about Vietnam

Grades: 4 and 5

Class sessions: three 45 minute lessons

Teacher preparation: collect an assortment of photographs of Vietnam, including pictures of people, places, transportation, landforms, etc. Store in an accessible file for students.

Using Publisher, demonstrate how to make a “little book”. Students will choose photographs about Vietnam and write captions for each photograph.

Directions:

- Blank publication—text frame tool—eight frames, equal size and spacing on the page.
- Picture frame tool—insert photograph into each text frame.
- Text frame tool—insert into each of the eight text frames. Text should be sentences for caption for photograph.
- Instruct students about how to make the “little book”, and allow enough time for exploration of photographs.

Lesson Two: Hello! Hello! Hello!

Grade: 2

Class sessions: one 45 minute lesson

Invite students to use this website: www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/hello to find out about many ways to say "Hello!"

Next, demonstrate the Word Art tool in the Word document, and have students make a 8"x11" poster showing many ways to say hello.

Lesson Three: Weather Watch

Grades: 2, 3, 4, and 5

Throughout the school year

This is a quick activity that can be continued throughout the school year, thus seeing the trends in weather patterns around the world. Assign countries from every continent to students, and ask them to find out and post the weather conditions of their country. Recommended website is: www.onlineweather.com/v4/world/owac

Theme Three: ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Students will learn about Vietnam and how people use the environment—for school, work, and community life.

Lesson One: If the World Were a Village

Grades: 4 and 5

Class sessions: two 45 minute sessions

Read *If The World Were a Village* by David Smith. Topics in this picture book include religions, food, languages, air and water, natural resources, past and future. Next, invite students to visit this website: www.un.org. Follow the link to CyberSchoolBus, then InfoNation. Students can select countries and categories of information.

Next, demonstrate how to enter data using the Excel program, using data from the book as well as the website.

Lesson Two: A Day in the Life

Grades: 2, 3, 4

Class sessions: two 45 minute lessons

Teacher preparation: select pictures of daily life in Vietnam —street scenes, school, children playing, etc.

Ask students to list their daily activities—what are some of the typical things that make up a usual day?

Next, invite students to visit selected websites to learn about life in Vietnam.

Demonstrate how to make a table—4 columns, 12 rows. Each row will include time of day, description, photograph, and opinion about similarities and differences. See sample below:

Time	Story	Picture	Same-Different?
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9 a.m.	This boy is demonstrating his science experiment.		We do science experiments in our class.
Noon	Four boys are laughing about a joke.		My friends and I laugh a lot too.
3 p.m.	Children are jumping rope.		My sister and I jump rope together.

Theme Four: MOVEMENT

Students will learn about transportation, imports/exports, and communication in Vietnam.

Lesson One: Honk! Honk! Beep! Beep!

Grades: 2 and 3

Class sessions: two 45 minute lessons

Teacher preparation: collect and story transportation pictures in a file, accessible to students on the school network. Pictures will include modes of transportation in Vietnam and the United States.

Begin by asking students about the many ways they have traveled, making a list of all of their modes of transportation. Next, show photographs of transportation in Vietnam, and engage students in conversation about the similarities and differences of transportation from their experience and that of Vietnam.

Next, demonstrate how to build a PowerPoint presentation, with a title page, picture pages (using transportation images), transition, and animation. Give students enough time to not only make a presentation, but to explore the animation and transition features of Power Point.

Finally, show students how to set their presentation on “continuous loop” and have all presentations running at the same time so that students can see each other’s work.

Theme Five: REGIONS

Students will learn about the concept of regions, first exploring the regions of the United States, then applying region concepts to world perspectives.

Lesson: United States Regions— Vietnam Regions

Grade: 3

Class sessions: four 45 minute lessons

Use the attached PowerPoint to teach the concept of “regions”. Presentation includes information and pictures about Vietnam, with topics of geography, economics, culture, and points of interest.

Next, divide class into five groups, and assign a region to each group (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West, Southwest). Students can research the regions of the United States, collecting information about geography, economics, culture, points of interest, and pictures of each of the states in their region.

Finally, show the PowerPoint about Vietnam again, and engage students in class discussion about the similarities and differences for their U.S. region and Vietnam.

Resources:

1. If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith, Kids Can Press, 2002
2. Social Studies Excursions, K-3 by Janet Alleman and Jere Brophy, Heinemann Publishers, 2001