

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Fair Trade from Jeff Burnham

Grade - Six

Length of class period – 90 minutes

Inquiry: What are the economic and social purposes of fair trade?

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, students will be able to decide whether or not fair trade improves the quality of life in Latin American countries and in the United States.

Materials

- Items from grocery store
- Web sites listed below

Activities

- Initiate the lesson by handing out a variety of food products labeled with country of origin (such as raspberries from Chile). Have students identify where the food was grown or produced and label it on a classroom map with a post it.

Discuss prior knowledge of economic interdependence (my 6th graders will have background from 5th grade “Mystic Economy” lesson). Ask students questions such as “How do people in other countries depend on the United States?” and “In what ways do we rely on other countries?”

Introduce and discuss the concept of Fair Trade

The trading of goods that creates relationships between producers, traders and consumers in a manner that ensures that producers work in safe conditions, are paid fair wages, and are mindful of the environment.

www.sage.edu/academics/schoolofprofessionalstudies/management/programs/definitions.htm

Introduce this website:

Find Artisans by Region:

<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/catalog/region.php>

Demonstrate how students can find artisans of various products around the world by clicking on the desired region. In this case, focus on Latin American countries.

Students should focus on this question as they read various stories about artisans and their life (see below)

How does fair trade improve the quality of life in Latin American countries?

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Culminating activity: Describe and analyze an example of how fair trade has improved the quality of life for one of the individuals studied. Student choice: journal entry, letter to the editor of a newspaper, or letter to an American corporation encouraging support of fair trade products.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

Standard 14 Economic Systems: Students will demonstrate how the exchange of goods and services by individuals, groups and nations create economic interdependence and change.

PRINT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES FOR STUDENTS

Taller Jesus Artesano

http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/catalog/artisan.detail.php?artisan_id=53



El Salvador

Baltazar García Fuentes and a group of five other young men started the Taller Jesús Artesano workshop in 1991. Taller Jesús Artesano, which means "Jesus the artisan," is located in the Chalatenango District in the town of La Palma, El Salvador. None of them could find work because of the civil war in El Salvador, so these skilled woodworkers joined together to create a group to make and sell handicrafts. Today Taller Jesús Artesano provides training and job opportunities for 15 artisans around La Palma.

Ten Thousand Villages purchases painted wooden crosses, trays and childrens' home decor from Taller Jesús Artesano. Ten Thousand Villages has purchased products from Taller Jesús Artesano since 1993.

Fair Trade Means Joy

http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/catalog/story.detail.php?story_id=98



Ecuador

Once insignificant, tagua palm trees in the beautiful coastal community of Sitio Nuevo, Ecuador, now signify joy and hope for tagua nut carvers. Luis Alejandro and others earn fair and sustainable income by transforming tagua nuts into exquisite holiday ornaments and decorations for your home.

Ten Thousand Villages artisan partner Camari, based in Quito, offers Luis fair prices for his carvings and access to the international marketplace. This opportunity means Luis can find work in his community instead of leaving to find scarce work in the city.

The tagua nut, also known as vegetable ivory, offers a sustainable alternative to mammal ivory. Harvested when they fall to the ground, tagua nuts resemble the finest ivory in texture and color, but offer a more dense and resilient raw material. Tagua nut carvings give value to the tagua palm tree and help to discourage deforestation in Sitio Nuevo.

Camari

http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/catalog/artisan.detail.php?artisan_id=105



Ecuador

Camari was initiated in 1981 as a complement to the work of FEPP, a Christian development agency, which assists farmers throughout Ecuador. Camari works to confront the problem of marketing agricultural and handicraft products on behalf of several hundred peasant groups. This work enables these small farmers, or "campesinos," to remain in their home communities instead of leaving to find scarce work in the cities. Camari unites people, works to ensure they receive stable, fair income and enables them to carry on family traditions of working the land, as well as preserving indigenous culture through the creation of traditional crafts.

Ten Thousand Villages purchases carved tagua nut animal ornaments, dolls in traditional costume and wool wall hangings from Camari. Ten Thousand Villages has purchased products from Camari since 1990.