

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title: Mysterious Coin Discovery from Lisa Romasanta

Grade: 7

Length of class period: 20-30 minutes

Inquiry: What kind of information can a primary source, like a coin, tell us about the past ?

Objectives: Students will be able to discover clues from a "coin" primary source, write the clues, and analyze the clue's potential meanings. Students will become "detectives" by use their imagination in attempting to understand the past from an inanimate object.

Materials:

- ❖ Coins for each student: pennies (any U.S. coins), historical coins, or international coins. Any coins will different languages, will need to exclude update handout.
- ❖ Mysterious coin activity handout
- ❖ Update handout

Activities:

1. This is used for an opening school day activity in my classroom as an introduction to primary sources.
2. Students are provided with coins and a Mysterious Coin handout.
3. Teacher reviews the handout and clarifies questions.
4. Students work on writing down the clues and guessing what information they may tell about the civilization (pretending they cannot read the language). Occasionally students may need prompting.
5. Teacher provides the update handout when students appear to exhaust all guesses from the Mysterious Coin handout.
6. Students work on the update handout and what clues the words might provide about the civilization.
7. When students are done, class discussion occurs about the level of difficulty with the clues and analyzing the information. Lastly, discussion occurs about the work of an archeologist and their work's relevance upon the field of history.

Assessment:

Assessments are the student work on the handouts and the students' conversations during the discussion. I am looking for an understanding of the clues and the student's ability to draw reasonable conclusions about the coin's civilization from the clues.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

be active learners at cultural institutions such as museums and historical exhibitions.

interpret data in historical maps, photographs, art works and other artifacts.

UPDATE

A stone with writing on it has been uncovered near the archeological dig.

It contains two different written languages; the coin's language and an ancient language that another archeologist can read and understand.

Finally, you can understand the language written on the coin!

From this language, what additional observations can you make about this coin?

Observations of the mysterious coin	Conclusions about the unknown civilization
