Past Connections

Grade Level: 4-8

Time: 2-3 weeks

Concept: Understand the connection between past history and present times

Generalization: Students will learn how rivers and streams have influenced where people settle, choice of occupations, and how early settlers have influenced local communities.

Objectives: Students will:
1. research information using a variety of resources
2. organize information into an outline form
3. orally present a finished product

Materials:
map of your area (current and historical)
resource books from school or public library
list of references about local river history
internet access (optional)
atlases

Procedure: Research articles, books, atlases, and computers with internet access will be available to students for research.

Initiating Activity:
1. Students will decide on a person to research either through their personal family history, text books or through research articles.
2. Students will take notes using note cards.
3. Students will organize information into an outline form.
4. Students will decide how to use their information for a presentation.

Culminating Activity:
1. Students may present the material with technology using HyperStudio or PowerPoint.
2. Students may design a historical poster using visual graphic organizers.
3. Students may write a report using standard research writing style.

Evaluation: Teachers may create a rubric for students to refer to. Teachers can grade note cards, written reports, technology projects. Final overall grade will include a combination of scores from written and oral work, teacher observation and final presentation.

National Geography Standards:
Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
Standard 2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

Standard 14: How human actions modify the physical environment.

**Sunshine State Standards:**
SS.A.2.3.4: understands the impact of geographical factors on the historical development of civilization.
SS. B.1.3.2: uses mental maps to organize information about people, places and environment.
SS. B.1.3.5: knows ways in which the spatial organization of a society changes over time.
SS.A.1.2.2: knows the relative value of primary and secondary sources and uses this information to draw conclusions from historical sources such as data in charts, tables and graphs.
SC.D2.3.2: knows the positive and negative consequences of human action on the Earth’s systems.
LA.A.2.3.5: locates, organizes, and interprets written information for a variety of purposes, including classroom research, collaborative decision making and performing a school or real world task
LA.B.2.3.1: writes text, notes, outlines, comments, and observations that demonstrate comprehension of content and experiences from a variety of media.

**Resources:**
Local Historical Societies
Genealogy Groups
Public Libraries

**Web sites:**
http://www.dogpile.com
http://www.askjeeves.com
good geography and science search sites

US Geological Survey
http://www.usgs.gov
great posters, info on maps, water monitoring stations data

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Bureau of Aquatic Plant Management
3917 Commonwealth Blvd. MS# 710
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-3000
http://www.dep.state.fl.us
current environmental issues, park info, water data

Florida Institute of Phosphate Research
1855 W. Main St.
Bartow, Fl. 33830
Telephone: 863-534-7160
http://www.fipr.state.fl.us
excellent educational outreach program, information on all phosphate companies, free materials, speakers, lesson plans available