Snowbird Project

Grade Level: Secondary

Purpose: Students will identify the causes and effects of human migration.

Objective: Students will map the migratory patterns of subpopulations throughout Florida.

Materials: Booklets
Poster
Maps
Park Designs
Brochures
Game

Procedures:
1. Discuss Snowbirds. Who are they? Why Florida? What is the impact on the economy? How does the continued increase in population affect Florida cities and its resources?
2. The class, groups, or individual student will select a minimum of five cities outside a 500 mile range of Florida (this is a minimum).
3. Select five Florida cities to serve as arrival cities. For example: Chicago (departure city)—Tampa (arrival city). Consider using cities in various areas of Florida. For example: High Springs and Apalachicola.
4. Students plot routes from departure to arrival cities. Be sure to make note of all streets, highways, and interstates used. Students may keep these notes in a journal.
5. Snowbird Park. In one the destination cities, students may develop an environmentally safe park. Suggestions: R.V. spaces, tent camping, restricted habitat areas (illustrate wildlife and plant life targeted), animal proof garbage, any amusements (powered by nature: water & air), picnic areas. You need to design this as a protected environmental area. What can the Snowbirds residing in this park do to protect the area? What economic impact do these Snowbirds bring to this community? Negative and positive impacts.
6. Create a brochure to be made available to older citizens planning to come to Florida. This brochure needs to welcome these folks, but make them aware of their part in protecting Florida’s natural resources.

Additional Activities:
1. Create a Snowbird game. Research any ideas you may have from the above activity. Exchange games within the class. In creating the game, incorporate Florida history.
2. Follow steps 1,2,3,4 and create placemats showing routes and impact on Florida communities.

 Benchmarks:
SS.B.2.2.4- Understands how factors such as population growth, human migration, improved methods of transportation and communication, and economic development affect the use and conservation of natural resources.
SS.B.2.3.1- Understands the patterns and processes of migration and diffusion throughout the world.
SS.1.2.5- Knows ways in which people view and relate to places and regions differently.

**GEOGRAPHY STANDARD 9**: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth’s surface.