Canoeing in Florida’s Natural Environment

Grade Level: Middle/Secondary

Time: 90 minute block or two 45 minute periods

Concept: Planning recreational activities using the natural environment as a tourist destination.

Objectives: Students will:
1) use the internet to research rivers or streams in their immediate area.
2) determine if they are navigable by canoe, canoe availability, the cost of canoe rental, distance of the trip, extra items needed that are not provided by an outfitter, and distance to the launch site or outfitter.
3) compile information into a report on a project board complete with a topographic map or aerial photo of the river, pictures of the expected scenery, a list of materials needed for the trip, and an estimate of the total cost of the trip.
4) demonstrate ability to work cooperatively within a team.

Materials:
- highway map of Florida
- a computer with access to the internet
- Project display boards
- scissors
- glue
- markers

Background Information: Florida is a tourist destination for much of the Eastern United States, Canada, and South America. Often we think that recreation is limited to the major tourist attractions. Florida’s environment is peaceful, quiet and free of the noise and glitz of the “other Florida”. We who live here often overlook the local water related recreational facilities that are free or available at a nominal cost. We have great fresh and saltwater fishing, SCUBA diving, hiking, sailing, and canoeing.

Canoeing is a low impact activity. Canoe outfitters are available throughout Florida along the many small streams and meandering rivers.

Procedures:
Initiating Activity:
1. Have teams look at the poster from Geography Awareness Week and see if they can identify items that would be related to recreational activities in Florida.
2. Brainstorm a list of items and discuss why they are related to recreation.
3. Using a highway map of Florida, have teams locate the rivers and streams in their vicinity.
4. Locate any national, state, county, or city parks adjacent to the rivers and streams.
Strategies:
1. Using the internet, search using the keywords canoe Florida.
2. Research the sites and determine if any are convenient to your area.
3. Copy the appropriate material and determine if the river is worth traveling. Begin building the display to present to the class.
4. In the display include cost of the trip, transportation to the canoe outfitter, items needed that are not supplied by the outfitter, and personal requirements for the individuals included in the trip.

Culminating Activity:
1. Each team will present their plan to the class. Class will then vote on the canoe trip they would like to take.
2. If the trip is practical, take the trip on a Saturday. Use a digital camera to record the trip and produce a travel brochure when they return to school.

Evaluation:
Creative use and display of materials
Map or aerial photo of the river
Pictures of the river scenery
Transportation requirements
Extra items needed for the trip
Projected itemized cost of the trip

National Geography Standards:
Standard 1: Students know and understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
Standard 15: Students know and understand how physical systems affect human systems.

Sunshine State Standards:
SS.B.1.3.1: The student uses various map forms and other geographic representations.
SS.B.1.4.1: The student uses a variety of maps and geographic technologies including geographic information systems and satellite-produced imagery.
SS.B.2.3.6: The student understands the environmental consequences of people changing the physical environment in various world locations.

Web sites:
http://www.abfla.com/1tocf/natl/canu/ecoadv.html
http://www.abfla.com/1tocf/natl/cano3.html
http://www.canoeoutpost.com/
http://www.canoeoutpost.com/LittleManatee.html
http://www.canoeoutpost.com/peace.html
http://www.findaguide.com/cgi-bin/htmlscript?page.hts+FL+CANOEING
http://www.nsis.org/books/books-canoe.html
http://www.paddlef.com/
http://www.paddleflausa.com/
http://paddling.net/Outfitters/FL/