Discovering Florida’s Treasures

Topic: Florida’s National Parks, State Parks and Recreational Areas

Grade Level: middle through high school

Time to teach lesson: 1 week

Social studies concept or theme: Collecting and organizing research material

Overview: Students will use Recreational Guides and other resources to plan trips in their area or around the state.

Objectives: Students will:
1. research recreational opportunities on public lands in Florida.
2. design a trip to a recreational site in Florida.

Materials:
Map of Florida
list of National Park Service sites in Florida
State park and Water Management District resources
resource books from school or public library
websites:
   http://usparks.about.com/blpkfl.htm
   http://www.np.gov
   http://www.ehistory.com/local/gulfcoast/escambia
   http://floridaconservation.org/viewing/landcovers/Lndcov.html
   http://webworldwonders.firm.edu/index.php
   http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks
   http://www.recreation.gov/
   http://taxonomy.myflorida.com/Taxonomy/Visitor/

Procedures:
Initiating activity: What can you do in Florida? Which of these can you do on public lands? Students should create a KWL chart about places or activities that can be done in Florida on public land.

Strategies:
1. Students will contact local and state organizations for resource materials.
2. Students will use maps, Water Management District Resources including Recreational Guides, State Park Guides, and internet resources to locate recreational opportunities.
3. Students will design a trip to a public land site and include a list of regulations, equipment, clothing and food needed.

Culminating Activities: Students should return to their KWL and complete. Then class will design a Florida Treasure Map with windows at various recreational sites to showcase student
research students or students can design individually a brochure using Microsoft Publisher advertising their site.

**Extension:** Visit a national or state park in your area and discover the unique features of your area. Students can use GPS and digital cameras to design a virtual field trip at one of our state treasures.

**Evaluation:** Student brochures or Florida treasure maps, written description of their proposed trip.

**Sunshine State Standards:**
SS.B.2: The student understands the interaction of people and the physical environment.
LA.A.2.3.5: The student 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
SS.B.2.3.2: The student knows the human and physical characteristics of different places in the world and how these characteristics change over time.

**FCAT benchmarks:**
**Reading Skills:** Students will:
- read and organize information for multiple purposes.
- use reference materials.
- use persuasion techniques.