

Re-purposing Technology Lesson Plan

TE 831: Teaching School Subject Matter with Technology

Summary Box

In this lesson, students will research a historical figure connected to the Underground Railroad and create a "glog" about the person using GlogsterEDU. This lesson may be spread out over several class periods.

Lesson Objectives

- Students will research a historical figure connected to the Underground Railroad or the slavery debate using online sources.
- Students will write a paragraph in the voice of their historical figure describing their background and answering the question "What would I do if a slave came to my door?"
- Students will create a "glog" that displays a photo of their historical figure, the paragraph mentioned above (written in first person), a map of Underground Railroad escape routes that shows where their historical figure lived, and at least ONE other media (picture, video, or audio)
- Students will accurately cite sources for information and images used in the project.

Student NETS Standards Alignment

- Student NETS 1b - Students create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- Student NETS 3b - Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. Students locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
- Student NETS 4c - Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. Students collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
- Student NETS 5a - Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- Student NETS 6a - Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students understand and use technology systems.
- Student NETS 6d - Students transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.

Materials

- Underground Railroad Personalities List (for teacher use)
- Underground Railroad Internet Research handout
- Underground Railroad Glogster Project Directions handout
- Glogster EDU accounts for students
- Sample Glogster Project (may be used as student template)
- Computers with Internet access

Lesson Procedure

Before the Lesson

- Students should have a familiarity with the Underground Railroad and how it was used to help slaves escape to the North. If this is a new topic for students, consider using a video (such as <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlwDAwKNfTU>) to establish prior knowledge.

During the Lesson

- Introduce the lesson by telling the students that they will be exploring the Underground Railroad through the eyes of various historical figures. They will be assigned a person to research and must find out that person's view of slavery.
- Give students the *Underground Railroad Internet Research* handout.
- Use the *Underground Railroad Personalities List* to assign a person to each student. You may add to the list, but try to include personalities that students may not be immediately familiar with so they will discover the viewpoints through their research. Students should write their person's name on their handout.
- Direct students to the *National Geographic.com* website listed on their handout to establish a common foundation of knowledge for this project. The website is constructed as a simulation and they should follow the prompts to progress through the site.
- Next, have students use the Internet to research their historical personality. They should look for information about their person that will help them determine his or her viewpoint on slavery. Remind them to keep track of all sources as they will need to be cited in the project. Consider creating a *Google Custom Search* database for their use. You can populate the search with quality websites to help your students find accurate information more quickly and without the chance of finding inappropriate material.
- Give students the *Underground Railroad Glogster Project Directions* handout and show them the example glog of the project. Be sure to point out the required elements of the project. Review the Glogster tool palette and demonstrate how to add, delete and customize various elements.
- Walk students through the log-in process for GlogsterEDU and how to create a glog. If using GlogsterEDU Premium, you can create a project that can be assigned to your students using a template (in this case, it could be the example glog).
- Students should use the information they have collected to create their glog.
- **Questions to ask while they are working are:**
 - What was your personality's view on the issue of slavery?
 - Based on what you have learned, would he or she have helped a slave if given the opportunity?
 - Where did your person live?
 - Can you find pictures or other media related to your person and their life?
- Students should cite websites and images used on their glog. Consider a mini-lesson on using websites like EasyBib.com or BibMe.com to create citations. Students can copy and paste their citations from those sites to GlogsterEDU.

Ways to Extend the Lesson

Students should share what they have learned by presenting their glogs to the class, displaying them on a class website, or printing the glogs and putting them on a bulletin board.

Resources

<http://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students/nets-student-standards-2007.aspx>