

West Virginia State Museum Lesson Plan

Basic Information

Lesson Title:	Morse Code/Telegraph and WV		
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Content Area(s):	WV Studies	Subject(s):	WV Statehood
Synopsis:	The teacher might begin the unit by asking such questions as, “In the past, how did people communicate over long distances? Are today’s communication methods better than those of the past?”	Background & Student Relevance	Two inventions that revolutionized WV and the world were Morse Code and the telegraph. From teacher guidance and through discovery, students will realize how these communication tools help shape popular opinions and beliefs. These inventions' utilization in the newspaper business is immeasurable, and Archibald Campbell's use of this medium persuaded sentiment in favor of WV becoming a state is undeniable. As students view artifacts in the Wheeling Intelligencer Office, they will gain a greater appreciation for these inventions, the time period of their greatest use, and Archibald Campbell's use of them in helping WV become a state.
Grade Level(s):	5 th , 7 th , and 8 th	Museum Correlation:	Civil War and Statehood Showpath: Wheeling Intelligencer Office

Standards

WVCSO's:	<p>S.WV.5.1 explain and trace the economic, social and political history of West Virginia.</p> <p>SS.WV.5.3 compare and contrast past and present lifestyles of West Virginians.</p> <p>SS.WV.5.4 use reference sources to answer specific questions, collect information and prepare short reports about West Virginia.</p> <p>SS.7.5.9 use a variety of credible sources to construct and interpret the past.</p> <p>SS.7.5.10 describe the role geo-politics played in historic events.</p> <p>SS.8.5.16 describe the moral, legal tensions that led to the creation of the new state of West Virginia and how those tensions were resolved.</p>
21st Century Skills:	<p>21C.O.5-8.2.LS.1 -Student engages in a critical thinking process that supports synthesis and conducts evaluations by applying comprehensive criteria.</p> <p>21.C.O.5-8.2.LS.3 Student engages in a problem solving process that divides complex problems into simple parts in order to devise solutions.</p>

Implementation Plan

Essential Question: What problem solving strategies can individuals use to manage change?

Before the Museum Visit

INTRODUCTION – Ask the class how they communicate with others today? (Students should enjoy talking about the latest technological gadgets.) *url addresses are in materials list if you cannot access hyperlinks*

1. Transition to how communication devices of yesterday are not that different from what we use today. Show [Morse Code/Telegraph](#) demonstration.

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2. Play the devil's advocate – Suggest that some older devices might be better than what we have today. (Introduce and show [contest between the telegraph and text messaging.](#))
3. Pass out copies of Morse Code Symbols-(for more clarification on how Morse Code works)
4. [Click](#) and scroll down once you get on the page- to show and discuss timeline of communication inventions.
5. Before this, moveable type had already revolutionized the world. [Click](#) (Video has glitches, but can get the point across.)
6. Inform students that when they visit the WV State Museum, they will see important communication tools people used in earlier times, and that they will learn about a person that used these tools to help WV become a state.

DURING THE TOUR - In the discovery room, "LOOK FORS" -students are to learn as much as they can about Archibald Campbell and **The Wheeling Intelligencer** in the early 1860's to share when they return to class.

AFTER THE TOUR – Some questions to ponder: How did people get information about the WV Statehood movement in Wheeling? Are today's communication methods better than those of the past? How do you communicate with those living other places? Are there similarities between communication devices of today and those of yesterday? How are people using communication devices/techniques to inform, persuade today?

---Write a newspaper article to convince people to vote for WV becoming a state.

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/persuasion.pdf>

---Create a [brochure](#) that highlights at least 4 dynamics of WV Statehood.

Product Description

-The class can make their own Morse Code.

-Students can take turns tapping out messages about WV State hood and other members of the class decode.

-Or, the teacher give out test review in class-made Morse Code and students decode.

(Can be adapted for all grades)

-Brochure

-Newspaper Article

Material's List

Identify: - What was going on in Wheeling in the 1860's. Find information about Archibald Campbell.

"History of Morse Code and the Telegraph"(Addresses of hyperlinks in Implementation)

http://www.sciencerrangers.com/morse_code_quicktime.htm

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4>

<http://www.npg.si.edu/edu/brush/guide/unit2/morse.html>

<http://printceoblog.com/2008/07/frank-romanos-history-of-printing-in-15-minutes>

Morse Code Symbols – available on internet

Data Projector

Assessment

Students should be able to articulate Archibald Campbell's role in the WV Statehood Movement, articulating his beliefs and his opponents. Students should also be able to expound on the importance of Wheeling and the **Wheeling Intelligencer**. Teachers can create a grading rubric at rubistar.4teachers.org for assessment

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purposes.

Technology Integration

Film clips of Morse Code and the telegraph actually being used to let students experience these devices and the time period.

Additional Notes