

WISCONSIN BIOGRAPHIES

Purpose: Connecting the Past to the Present

Task:

Students will identify important events from a Wisconsinite's life, and relate the events back to their own lives.

Sample Essential Question:

How are people connected in time through history?

Standards:

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards: Social Studies

- B.4.3 Examine biographies, stories, narratives, and folk tales to understand the lives of ordinary and extraordinary people, place them in time and context, and explain their relationship to important historical events
- B.4.7 Identify and describe important events and famous people in Wisconsin and United States history

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

- RI.4.7 Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears
- RI.4.9 Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably

Materials:

Animated videos, books/ebooks, and Trading Card activity from WisconsinBiographies.org

Directions:

1. Choose a story from the Wisconsin Biographies series.
2. As a whole class, watch the animated video.
3. Create a list of events from the person's life.
4. Have students read the biography, then independently write four to five new facts they learned about the person while reading.
5. Divide the class into groups consisting of three or four students to share what they learned while reading. Students then record any additional facts they learned from their peers.
6. Bring the small groups back together to share their learning with the whole class.
7. Discuss how the events listed impact current events and the students' own lives.
8. Have students create a trading card about the person to demonstrate their understanding. Directions on how to use the Trading Card activity are found online at WisconsinBiographies.org on the Teachers page.

