



A Lesson on Staying in Phoenix by Adam Sanchez

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, Staying in Pheonix

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students a look at the lives of settlers in the 1860's in a desert environment and that hardships they had to overcome. Through the use of vocabulary words, discussions, and a writing assignment students will learn critical thinking skills while analyzing this historical passage.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.9: Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2e: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3c: Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Staying in Phoenix

by

Content: Long ago, Native Americans lived in the state of Arizona. They lived in a place that is called Phoenix today. They were farmers. Their environment was very dry. It was a desert. A desert is an environment that gets less than ten inches of rain during a year. They dug great canals. They were ten feet deep and 30 feet wide. Canals are like man-made rivers--they are paths water flows in. The canals brought water from a river to the land. They used it to farm. That was long ago, and many years later the Native Americans left.

Then in 1867, more than 100 years ago, more people came. They were settlers who moved to the area. They saw where the canals had been. Dirt had fallen into them, but they dug them again. Just as before, they got water to their land from the river. They named their new town Phoenix.

For a while people were glad to settle in Phoenix, but then there was a drought. In summer the river dried up. Then they had no water, crops died, and it was difficult to get food. Some people gave up and moved away since they knew they might not have water all the time.

People who stayed figured out a way to solve their problem. They built a dam. A dam is a wall that goes across a river. Some of the water can flow through it, but more water stays behind it. That water makes a kind of lake, which is called a reservoir. The people of Phoenix had water they could count on. They would open the dam when they needed more water for their crops.

Today if you go to Phoenix you will see farms. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables that grow there. You can see them growing all year. That is because it is always warm in Phoenix. In summer it is very hot because it is a desert. Today there are many more people living in Phoenix even though it is so hot and dry. They have the water they need and they also solved another problem. It was so hot in summer that people did not want to live here, but then someone invented a solution. He invented the air conditioner. Now that there is air conditioning, people can live in this very hot climate. They have come to stay in Phoenix.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Pheonix **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "For a while people were glad to settle in Phoenix..." What does the word "Pheonix" mean in this sentence?

- A: A fiery bird
- B: A newly founded town
- C: A deep hole
- D: A water blockade

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "Pheonix" correctly?

- A: I reached into my pocket and found my lost Pheonix.
- B: Lets go swimming in the Pheonix tomorrow!
- C: I went to visit my grandmother in Pheonix last week.
- D: John Pheonix is a good actor.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "A desert is an environment that gets less than ten inches of rain during a year." What does the word "Environment" mean in this sentence?

- A: The climate, soil, and living things that make up a desert.
- B: A place to go swimming when its hot.
- C: A place that gets very little rain.
- D: The Native Americans homeland.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "environment" correctly?

- A: It was so hot when I got home, I jumped right into the environment.
- B: It's going to rain today, I better bring my environment with me.
- C: Did you feed your environment today?
- D: What a beautiful day out today, this is a very comfortable environment to live in.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Drought **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "For a while people were glad to settle in Phoenix, but then there was a drought." What does the word "drought" mean in this sentence?

- A: high amount of rainfall
- B: just the right amount of rainfall
- C: Low amount of rainfall
- D: none of the above

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "drought" correctly?

- A: We are in a drought, try not to waste water.
- B: There is a drought out today, lets go swimming!
- C: I left my drought at home.
- D: Do you think drought looks good on me?

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Reservoir **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "That water makes a kind of lake, which is called a reservoir." What does the word "reservoir" mean in this sentences?

- A: The color of a lake in a desert environment
- B: A large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply
- C: A place where townsfolk have meetings
- D: The part of town where travelers go to rest.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "reservoir" correctly?

- A: I have reservoir my seat the show tonight.
- B: I'll see you at the reservoir meeting tomorrow.
- C: The reservoir will supply us with enough water to last all summer.
- D: How much does it cost to stay at the reservoir?

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Leave or stay?

Would you have chosen to stay in Phoenix or leave during the drought? Why?

2 - Moral of the story.

What are some of the morals of this story? What can we learn from these earlier settlers?

3 - Modern conveniences

This story talks about a few different innovations that have made our lives easier (reservoirs, air conditioning, etc...). Can you give 2 more examples of inventions that have made our modern lives easier?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In this assignment I want to take what you have learned from the story and tell me how you would dig a cannal (give dimensions) and how you would create a reservior. ?your essay must be?2-3 paragraphs (300 word minimum).

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